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RUSSELL JAMES

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ON THE COVER: The Aggies rush the field after winning the super regional against Oregon and punching their ticket to Omaha! Photo by Rob Havens '88

Howdy Ags!

This last month has been such an amazing time in Aggie sports! Our women's tennis team brought home a national championship to A&M! Congratulations to Coach Mark Weaver and his team, who battled through a gauntlet of the nations best teams to bring home the title. Year after year they have been climbing the ladder and finally, in 2024, they reached the summit and we couldn't be prouder.

Adela Cernousek became the first individual medalist in program history as she won the NCAA Div 1 Women's Golf Championship. She also qualified for the Women's US Open and was one of only four amateurs to make the cut! Congratulations Adela!



Our softball team hosted the first regional in the Trisha Ford era and took care of business to move on to the Super Regional. The Aggies shocked the No. 1 seed Longhorns and then played two amazing games that came down to the very end. We are so proud of them and look forward to seeing them in OKC very soon.

Last but not least, our Aggie Baseball team gave us all the ride of a lifetime as they advanced to the last game in Omaha. Along the way, they defeated our long-time rivals, Texas, in front of a capacity crowd at Blue Bell Park. In the Super Regional, the Aggies scored nine runs in an inning to come back and beat the Oregon Ducks. Then, they won four games in Omaha, advancing to the final game of the College World Series. We are so proud of the fight these guys showed to the very end.

Gig'em!

Rob '88




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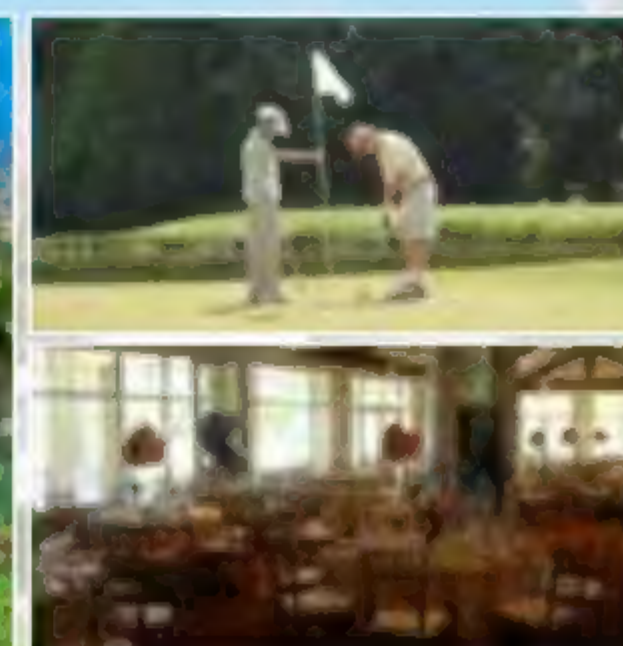
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MISSION ACCOMPLISHED

After steadily raising the bar each year, Coach Mark Weaver and his team finally won the national championship. The team began the season with a 5-5 record but used the tough start to fuel a run to the title. It was the first natty in program history. The Aggies lost to Georgia three times during the season but beat the Bulldogs 4-1 to clinch the title. Photo courtesy of Texas A&M Athletics





FÚTBOL ON KYLE FIELD

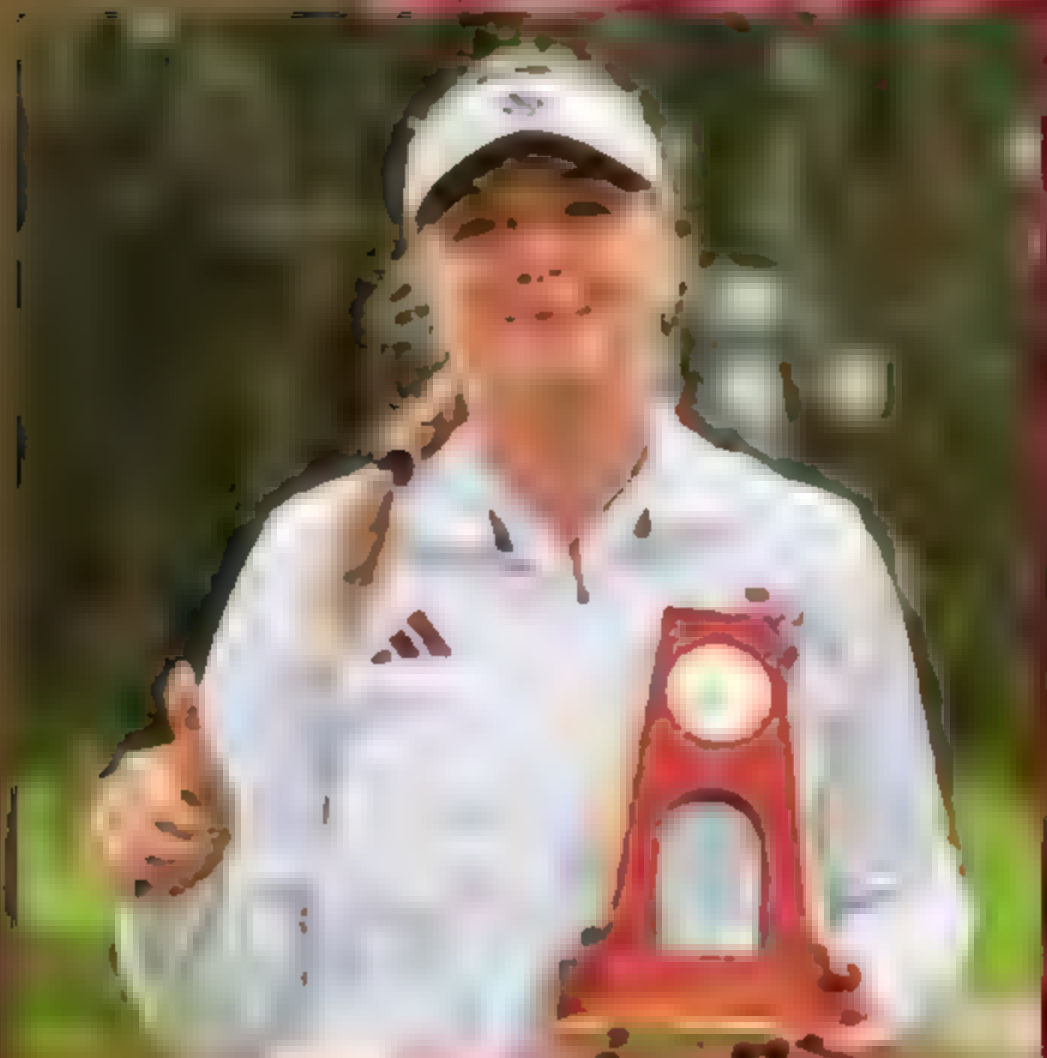
Andreas Pereira scores the first goal for the Brazilian national team against Mexico on Kyle Field. The historic game drew over 85,000 fans, who came to AggieLand to watch the match. It was the first soccer match to be held in the United States' fourth-largest stadium. Our field crew did an amazing job extending the turf to enlarge the pitch for the historic game. Photo by Rob Havens '88

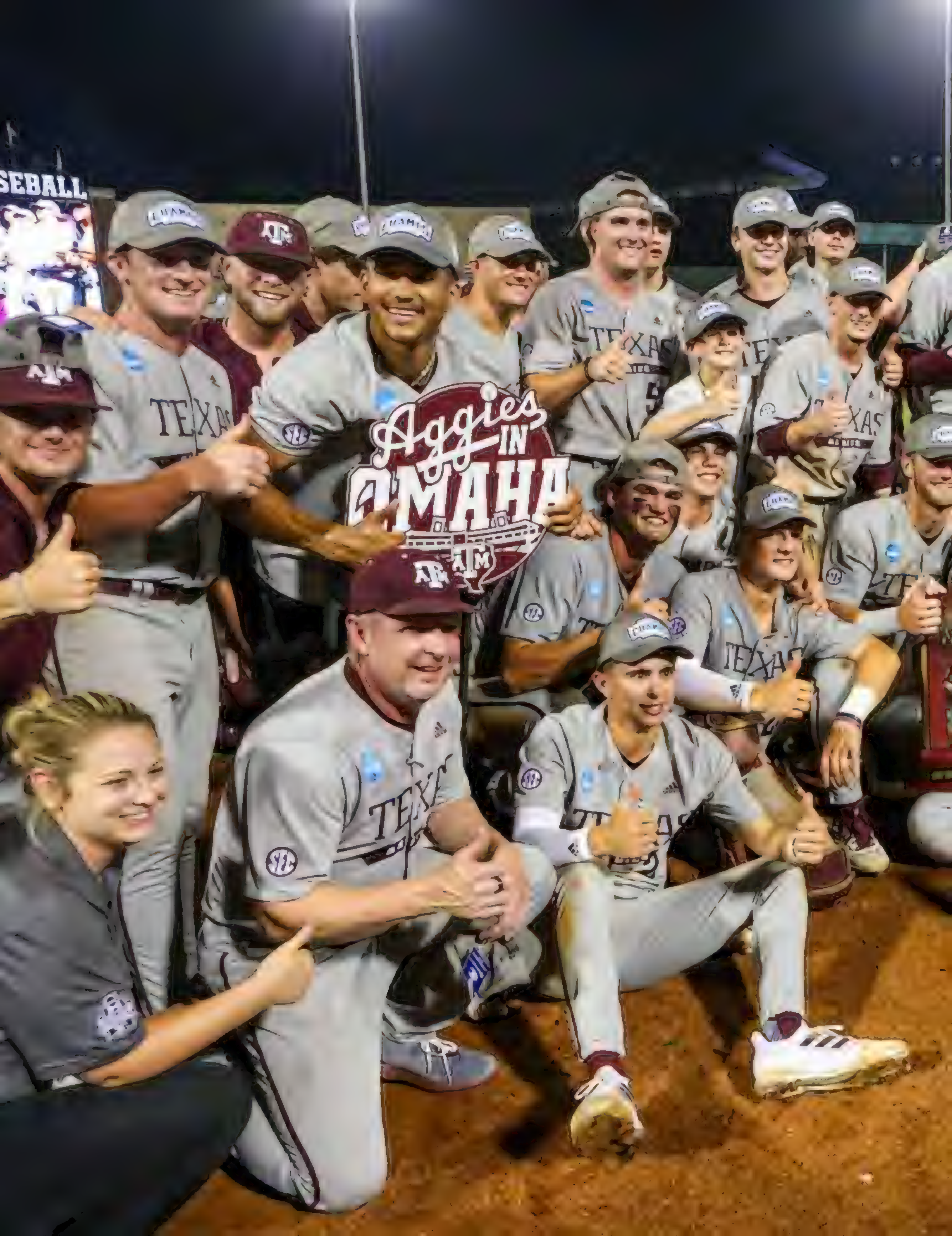




NATIONAL CHAMP

Adela Cernousek became the first individual in program history to win the national championship. She also became the first women's golfer in program history to average below a 70.00 stroke average in a single season. The junior finished her year with a 69.94 average. She also went on to qualify for the U.S. Women's Open where she was one of only four amateurs to make the cut. Photos by Sydney Stevenson/Texas A&M Athletics







TICKET PUNCHED

A happy bunch of Aggies pose for a team picture after punching their ticket to Omaha. After trailing 8-4 in the seventh inning of game two versus the Oregon Ducks, the Aggies scored nine runs and sent 13 players to the plate for the amazing comeback victory. Kaeden Kent was the big hero for the game, launching a grand slam over the right field wall to put the game out of reach. Photo by Russell James



WEAVER



PITTMAN STOIANA



MIRELES



KHIRIN

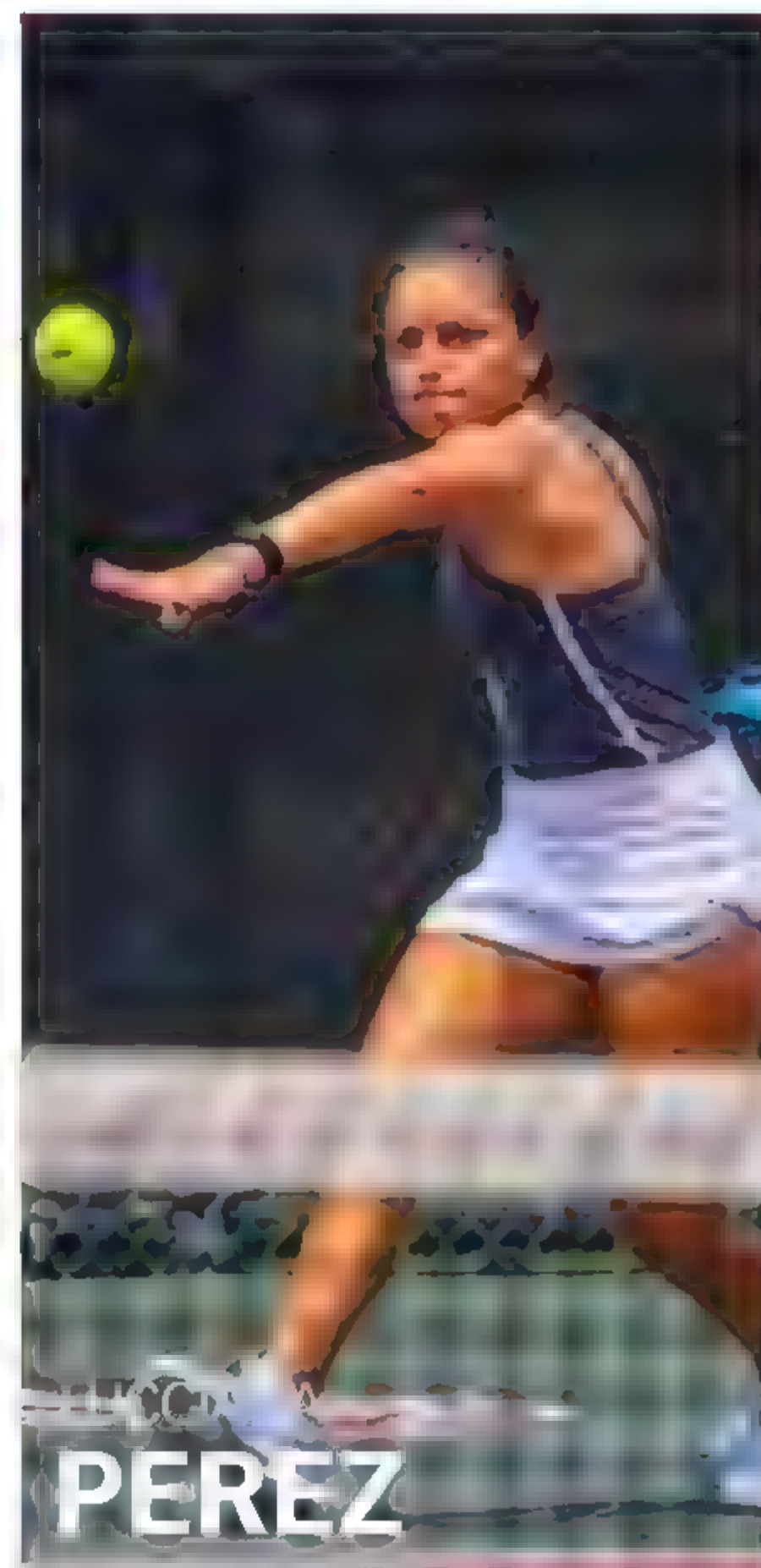


WOMEN'S TENNIS

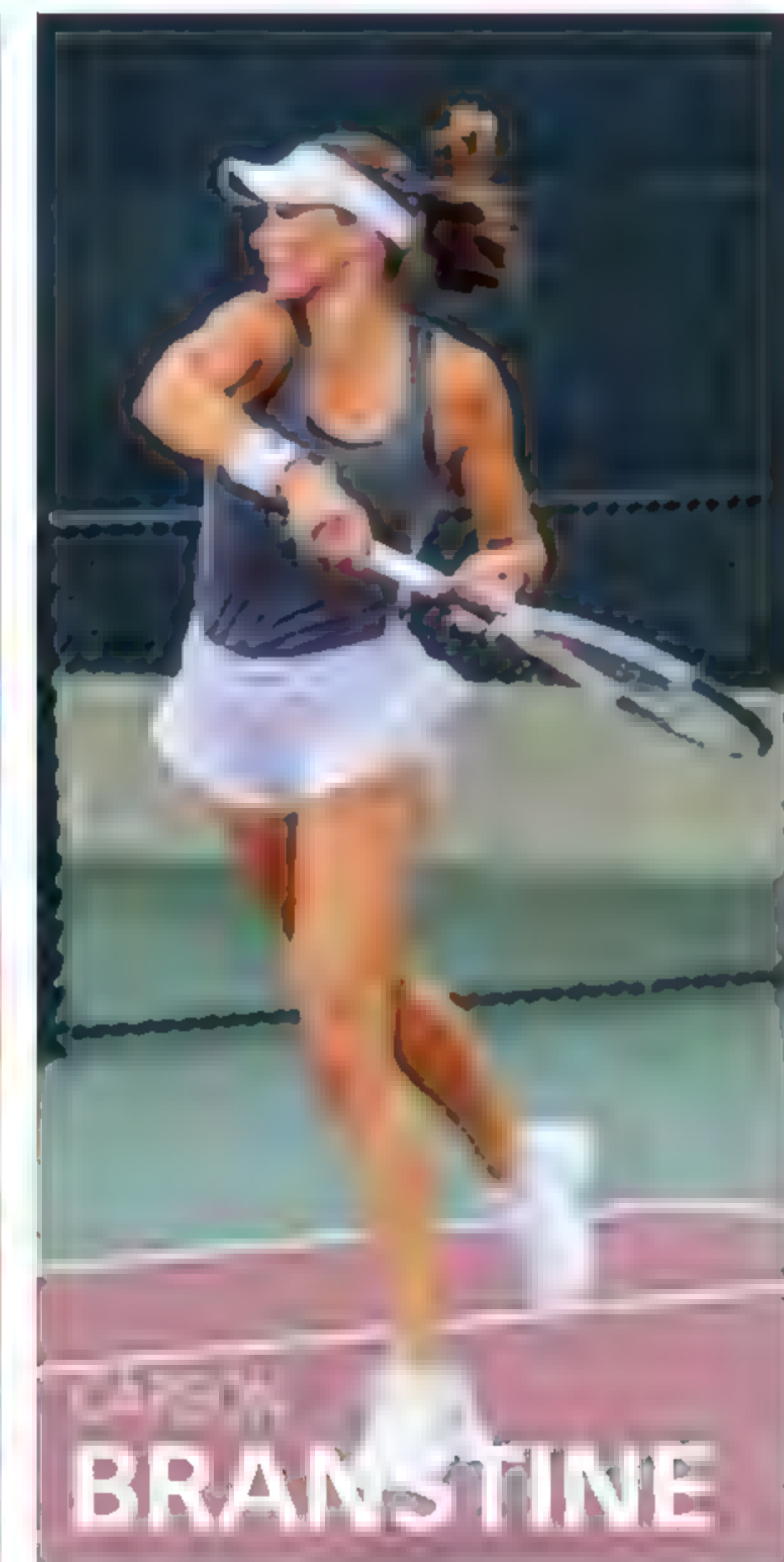
The Aggies were on the brink of a historic season, facing Georgia in the SEC Championship to secure a third straight SEC Championship – Something that had never been done before. The Bulldogs had beaten the Aggies several times in the regular season, and with the crowd behind them in their newly built indoor tennis stadium they were able to outlast the Maroon & White in the SEC Championship, 4-1, to become SEC Co-Champions. Mark Weaver and the Aggies took that loss and put together a postseason run that will always be remembered. They dominated the playoffs, capped off with a historic defeat of the defending champions, North Carolina, who hadn't been beaten on their homecourt in 94-straight matches. The Texas A&M Women's Tennis team did something no other team had done in six years, and that was beating the Tar Heels on their own court. They were the best team in the playoffs, making it all the way to the championship. Facing off against the Bulldogs for all the marbles, their kryptonite all season, A&M dominated, defeating Georgia 4-1 in the most important game of the season. The Aggies became National Champions for the first time in program history.



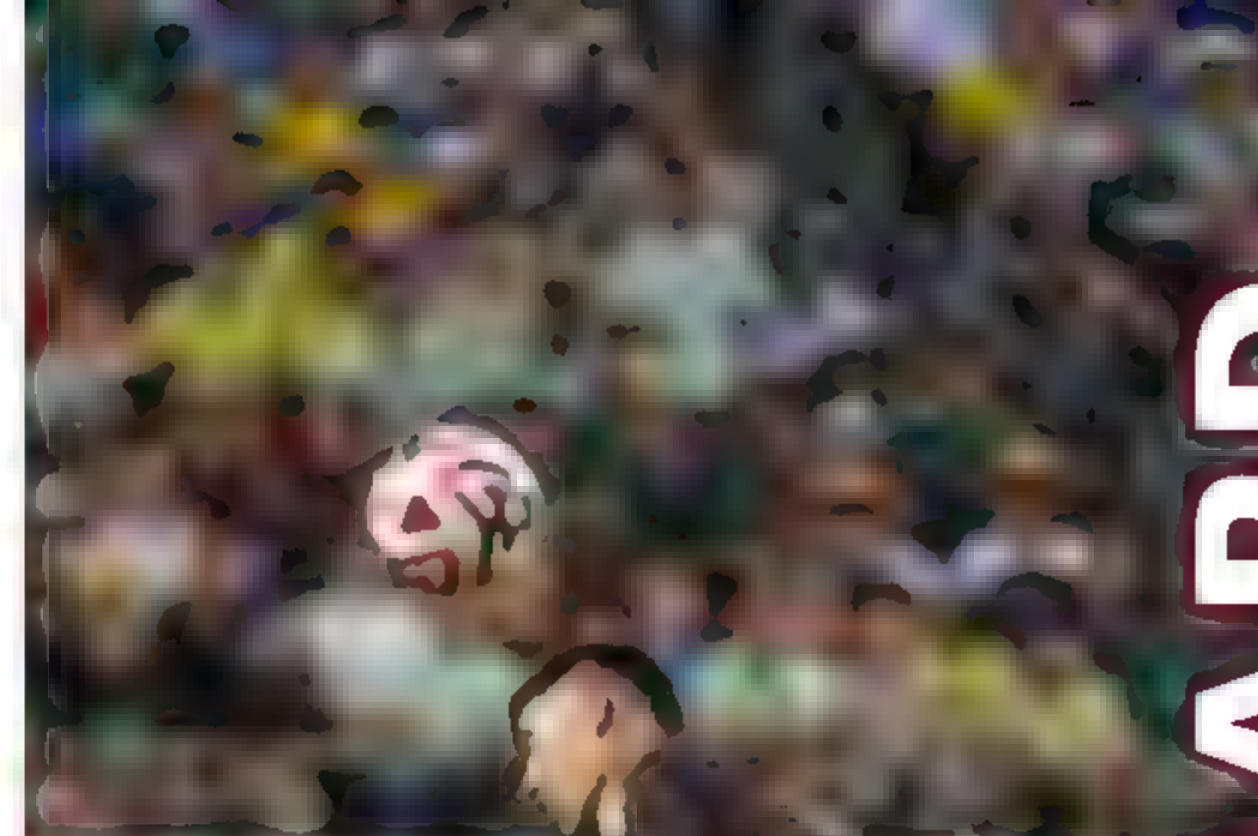
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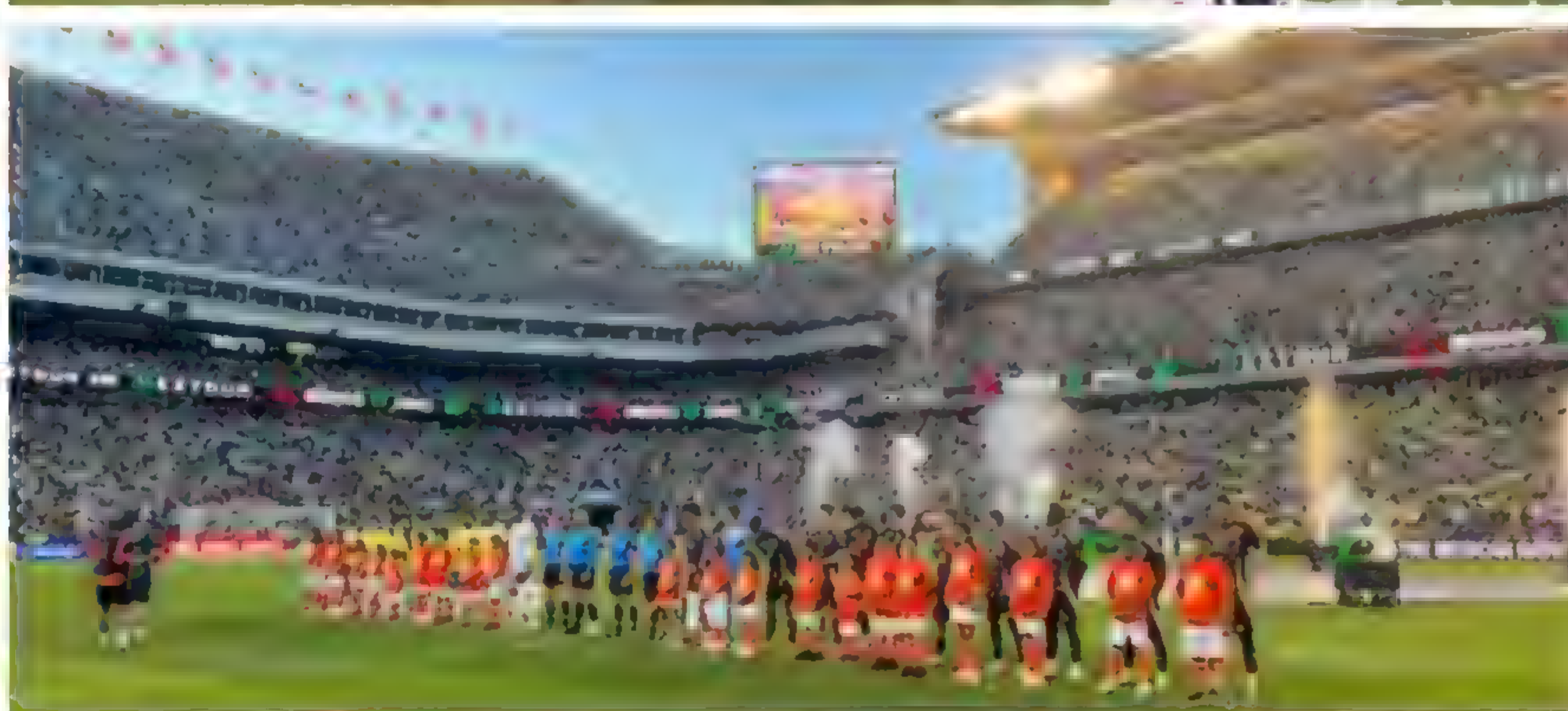
BRANSTINE



SCOREBOARD

MEXICO VS. BRAZIL SOCCER

Texas A&M hosted the first-ever international soccer match in Kyle Field. Over 85,000 fans came to the home of Aggie Football to watch Mexico take on Brazil in the MLS MexTour friendly. During the match, Brazil jumped out to a 2-0 lead, but Mexico battled back to tie the score near the end of regulation. With time running out during stoppage time, Brazil got a header by 17-year-old Endrick to win the game.





MASON
PEROT



TOGAN
TOKAC



ZOE
SLAUGHTER



ADELA
CERNOUSEK

WOMEN'S GOLF

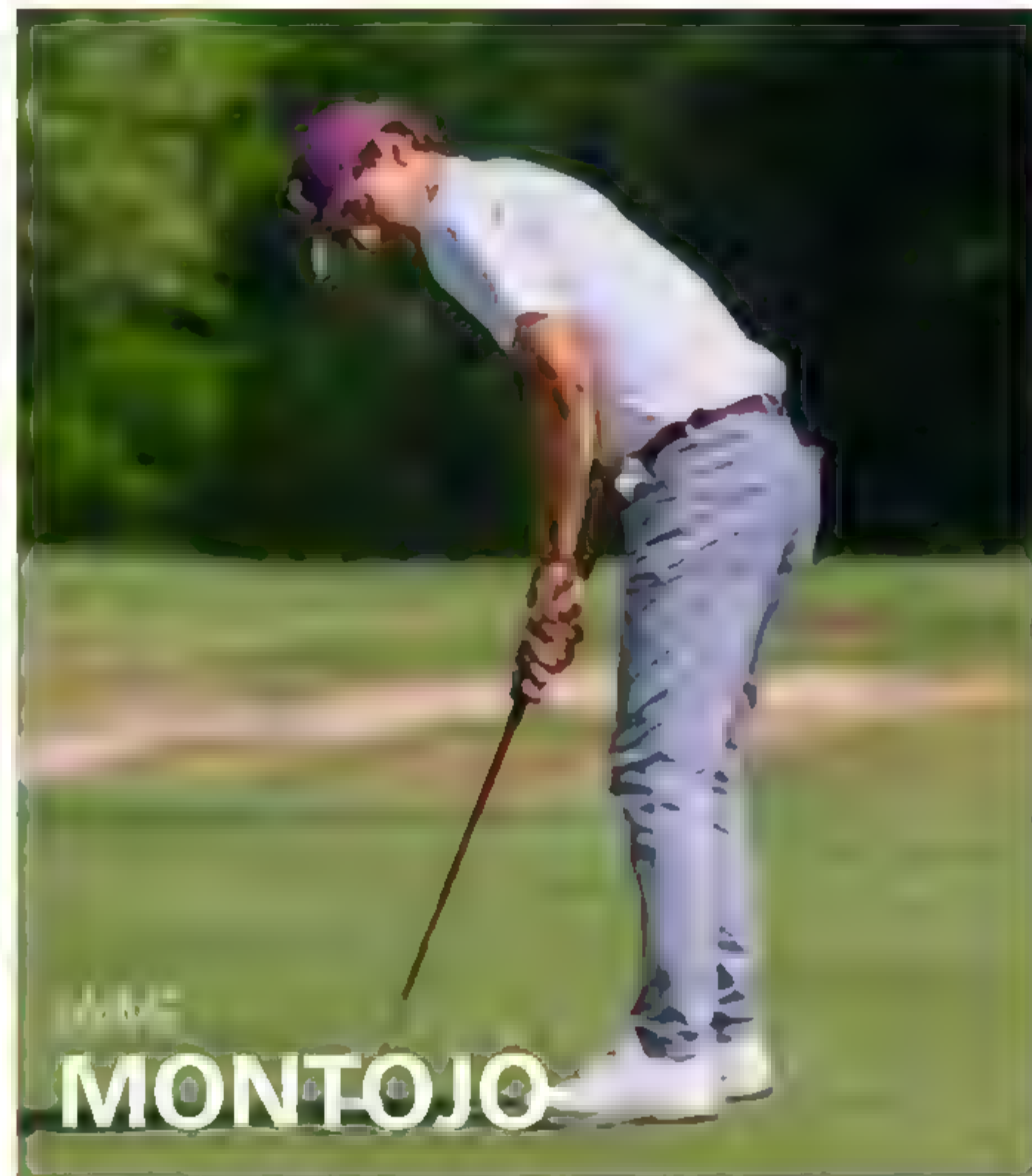
The team made it to the SEC Championship before falling to Mississippi State 2-3. At the NCAA Championships, they advanced to match play but lost in the quarterfinals to UCLA. Adela Cernousek won the individual championship, becoming the first woman in program history to win the national title.

MEN'S TENNIS

The Ags went 20-11 overall and 7-5 in conference to wrap up the '24 season. The men advanced to the Sweet 16 of the NCAA tournament with wins over Rice and San Diego, which set up a match against No. 2 Texas. The Aggies fell to the eventual runner-up of the NCAA tournament 0-4.

MEN'S GOLF

Our men's team advanced to the semifinals of the SEC Championship before being knocked out by Vanderbilt 1-3-1. The team competed in the NCAA tournament but missed the top-15 cutoff to advance.



MIKE
MONTOJO



PHICHAKSN
MAICHON



RYLEN
WIGGINS



EMILY
KENNEDY

SOFTBALL

In only her second year as head coach, Trisha Ford led her team to a Regional Championship and a date with Texas for a trip to the CWS. Once again, the NCAA snubbed one of our programs by giving us a 16-seed and a second round matchup with the No. 1 seeded Horns. After breezing through the regional in three straight games, beating U Albany and Texas State twice. The No. 10 ranked Aggies headed to Austin and beat the hell outta TU, 6-5 in game one. The Ags lost a heartbreaker 8-9 in 9 innings in game 2 and another heartbreaker 5-6 in game three. Even the Texas coach complained that there was no way we were a 16 seeded team. Trisha's girls showed that they could compete with the best in the country as the Horns would finish as the runner-up at the CWS.

NCAA TRACK

Our men's and women's teams finished 3rd and 4th respectively at the SEC Outdoor Championships. At the NCAA tournament, our men's team finished in fifth place. Highlighting the meet was our men's 4x400m relay team that won the NCAA title with a school record time of 2:58.37, which is the fifth-fastest time in NCAA history. Our women's team finished in 10th place. Timara Champman claimed the national title in the heptathlon earning 6,339 points (a career best) good for 9th best in NCAA history.



EMILY
CANNON



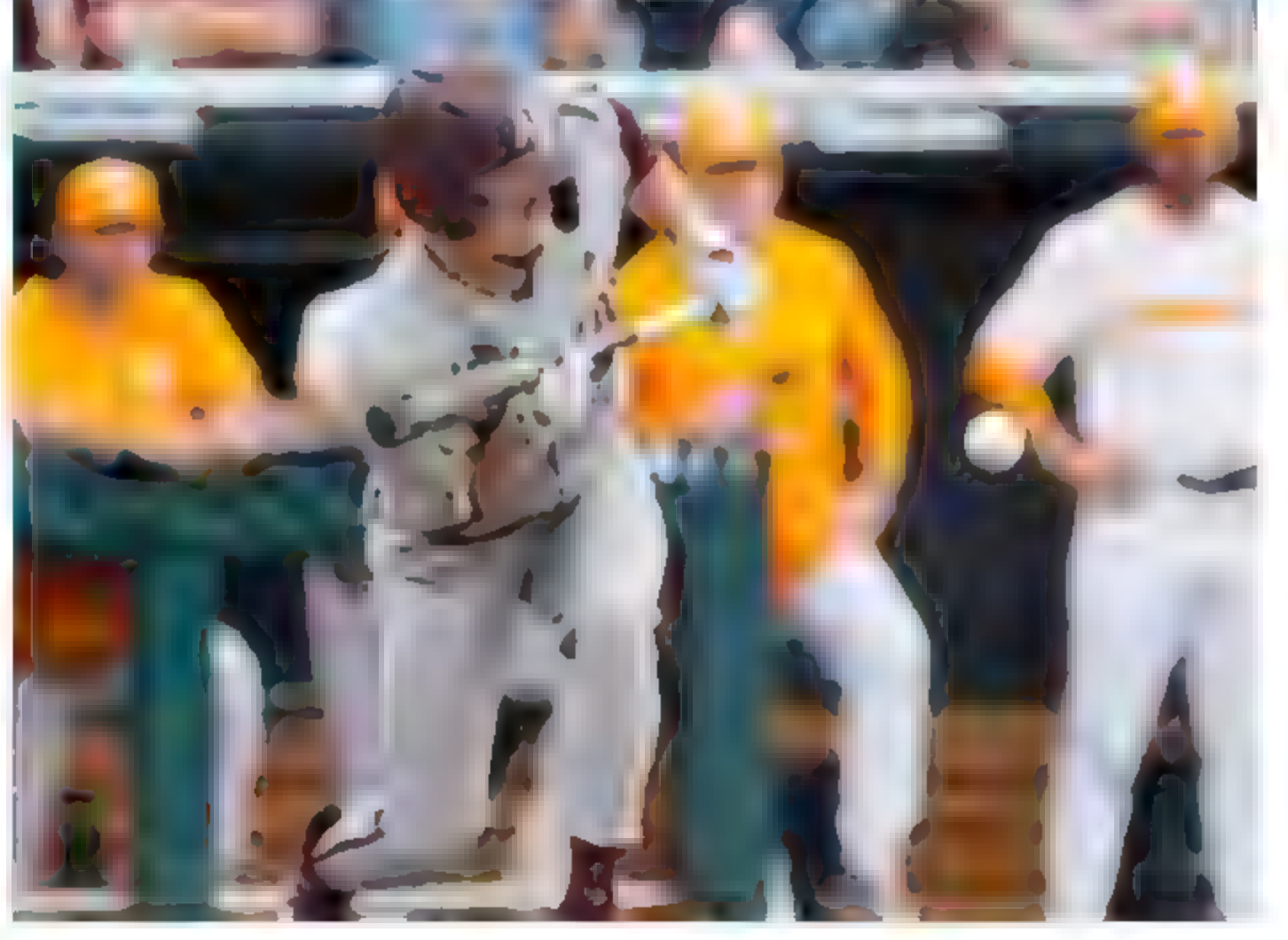
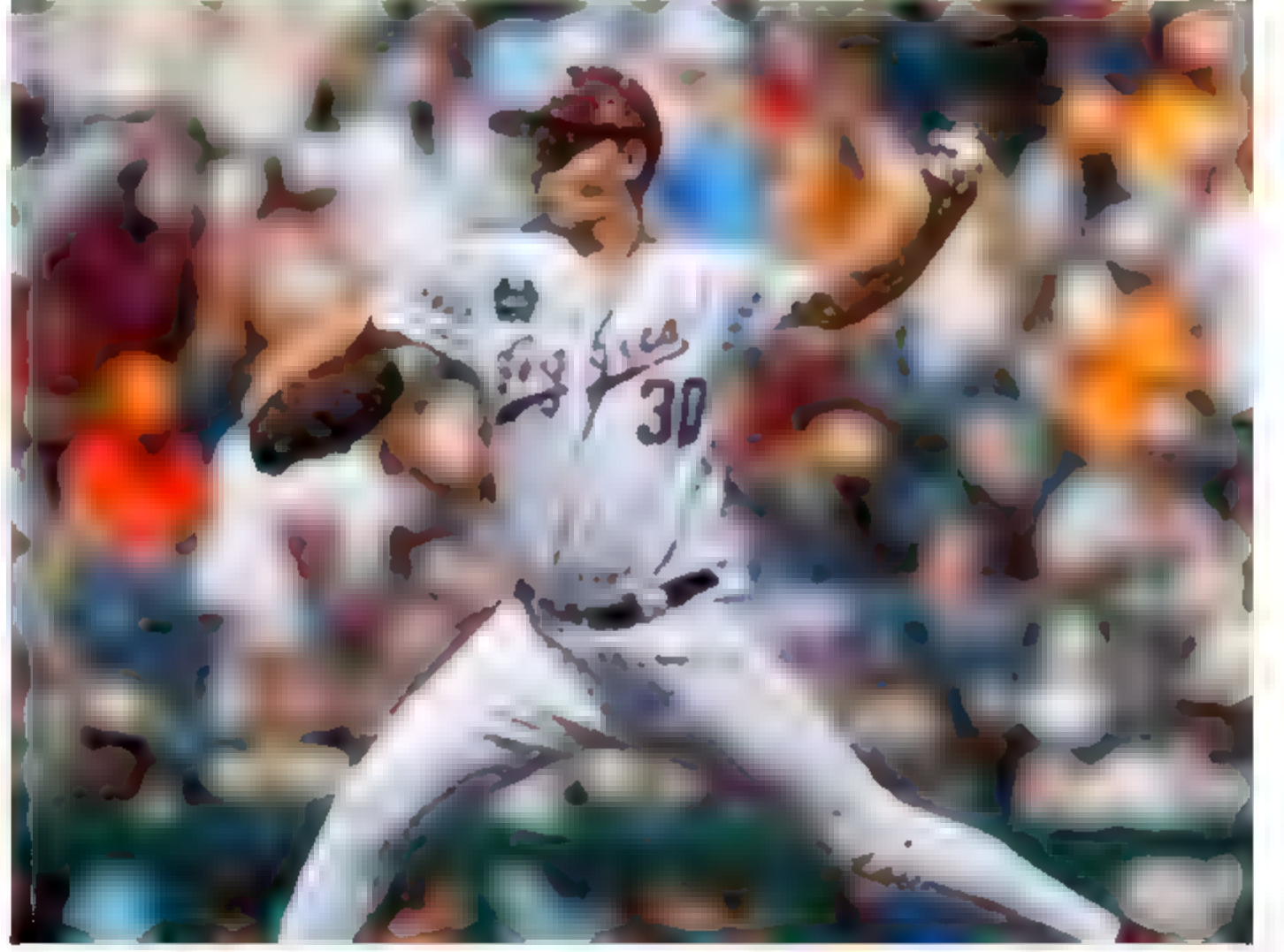
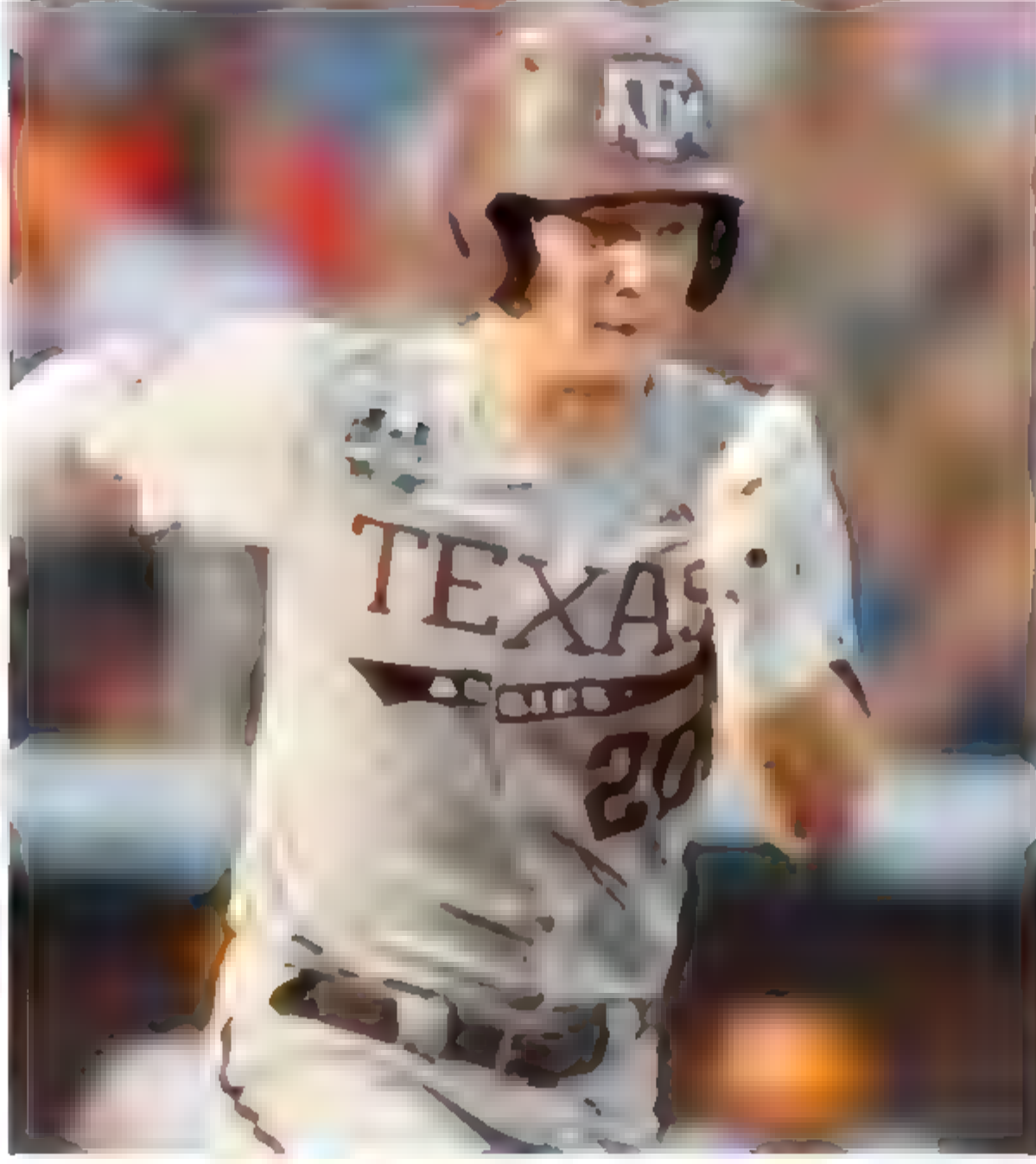
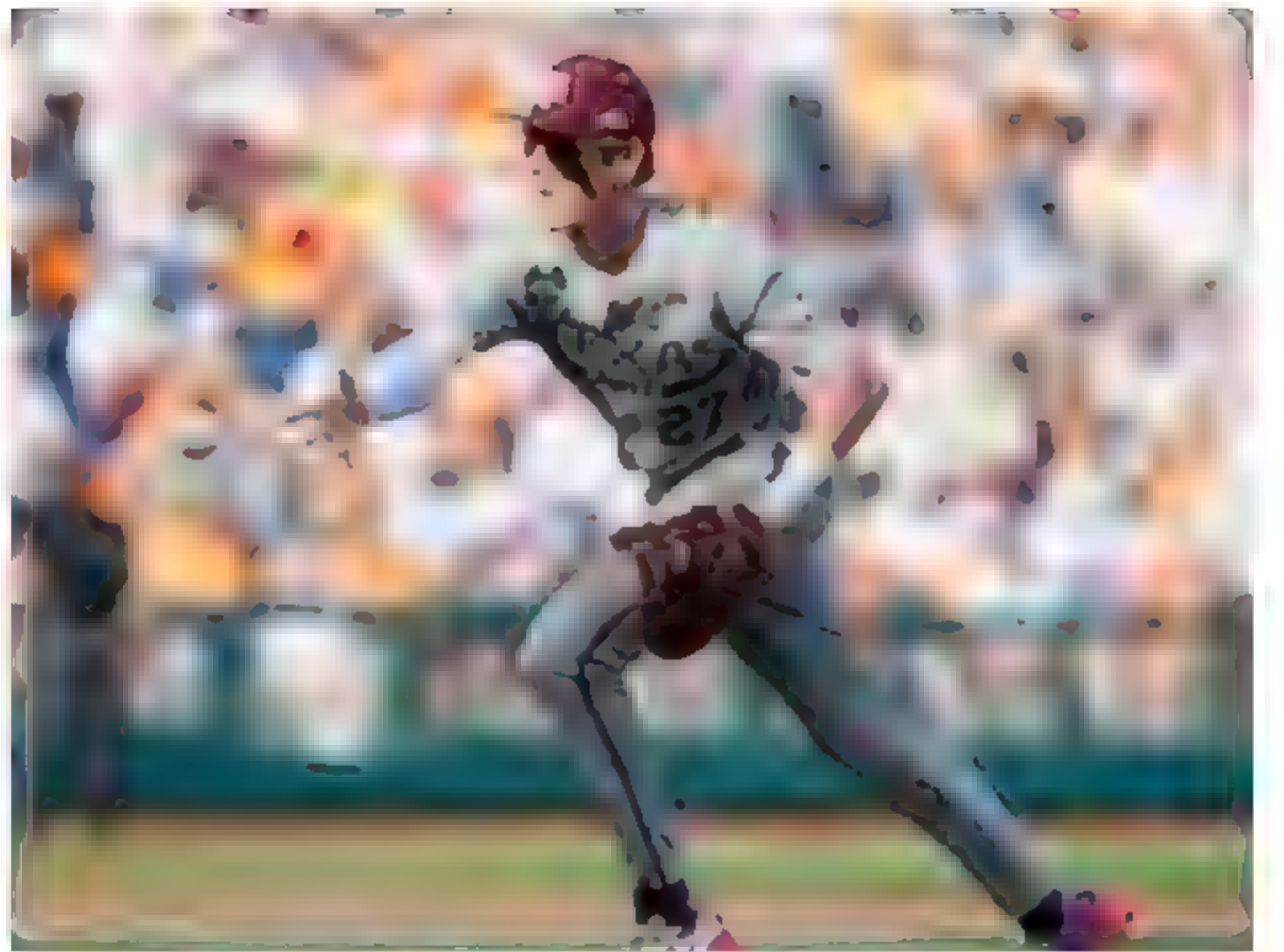
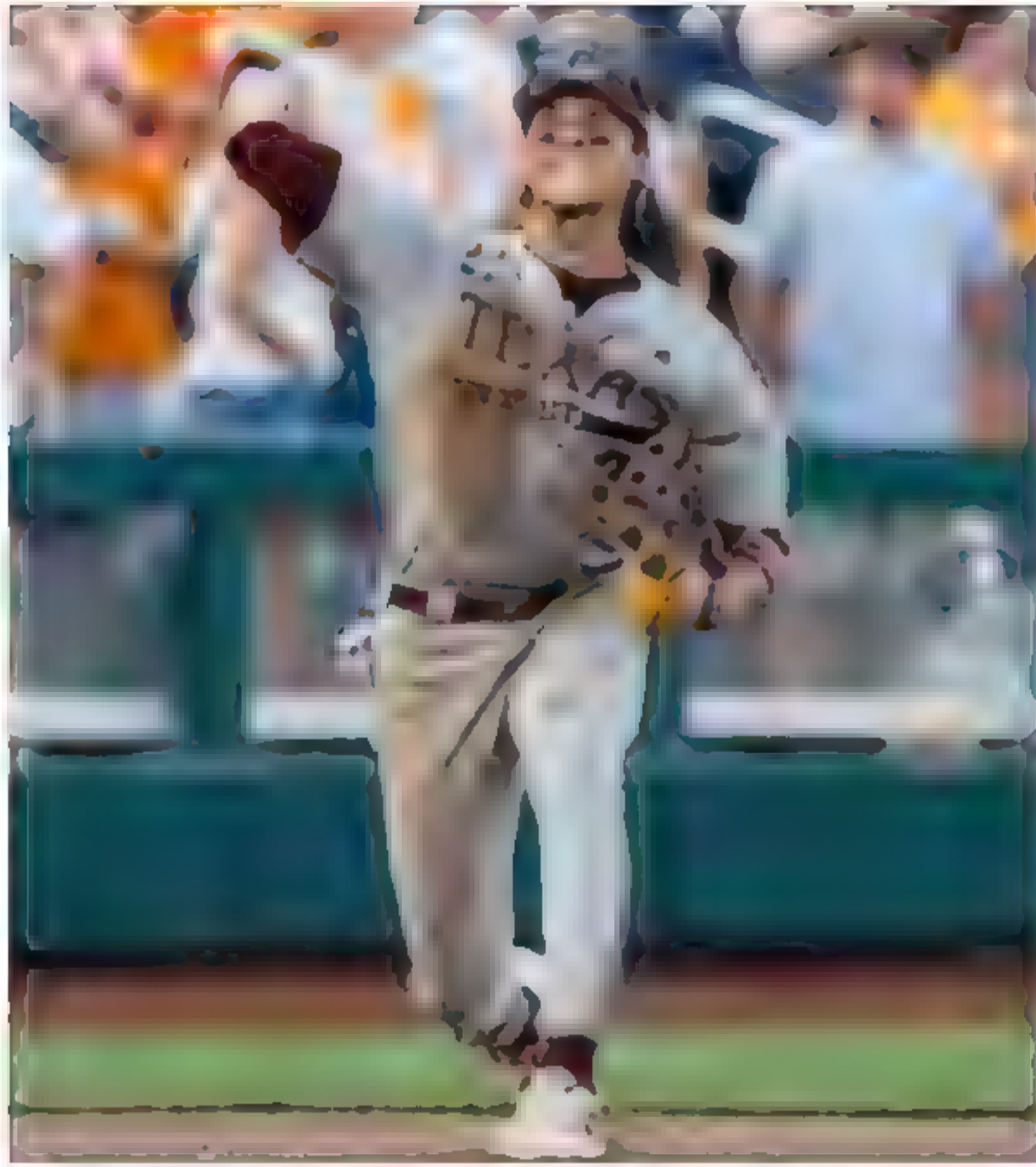
TIMARA
CHAPMAN



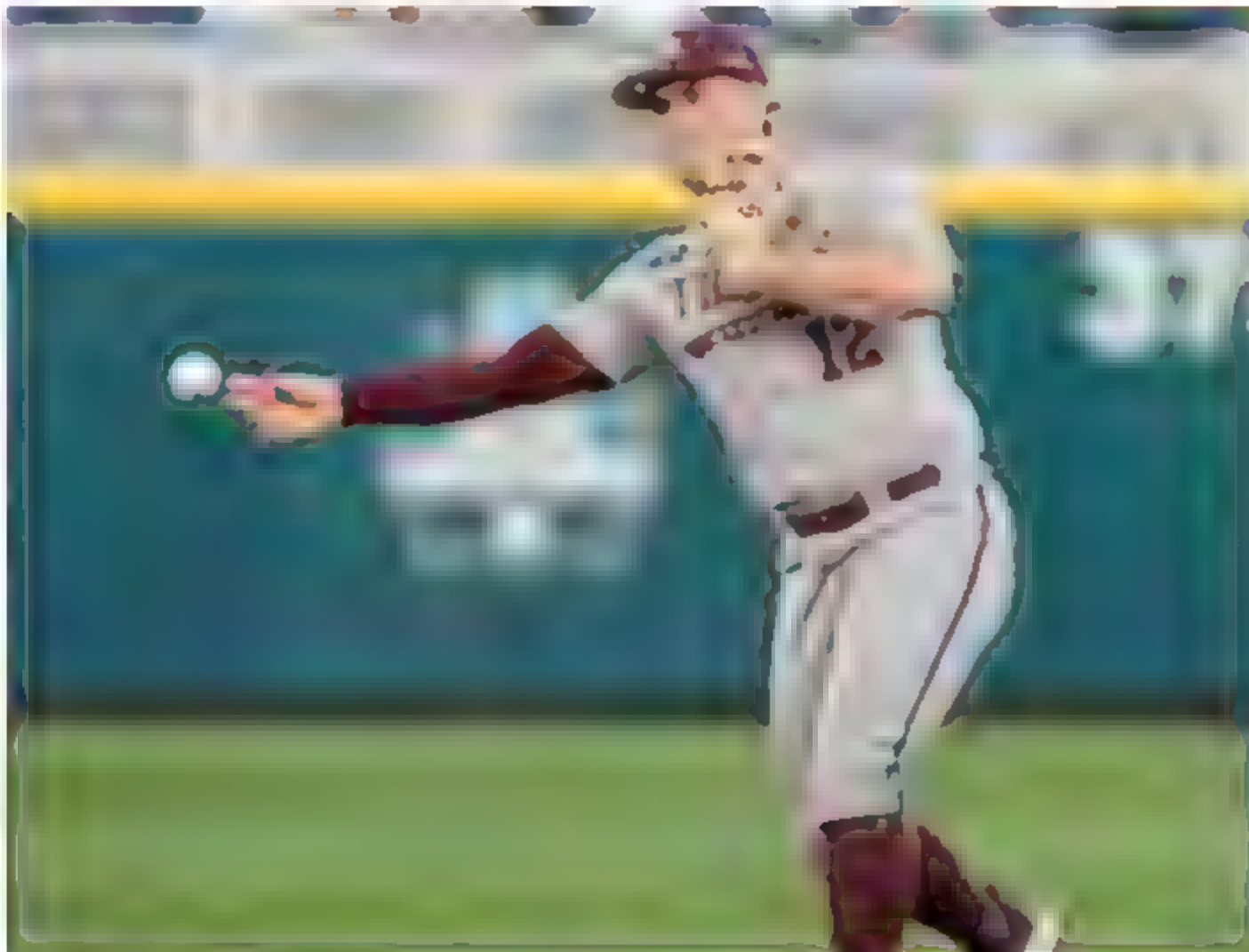
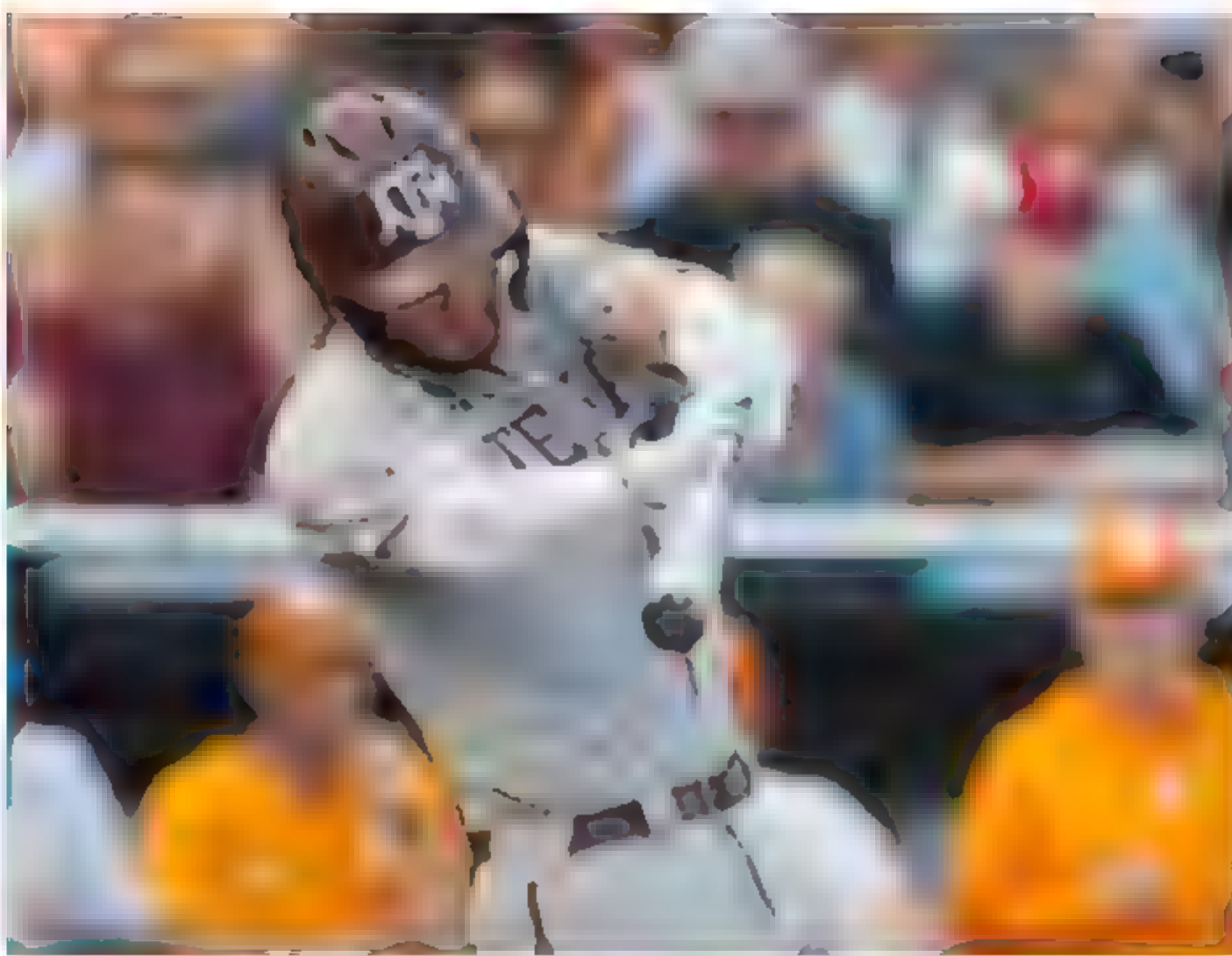
BY ROB HAVENS '88

Texas A&M made a historic run in the College World Series, advancing to the final championship series game. Just two years ago the Aggies made it into the final four of the CWS, but this year the Aggies won nine games in a row during the post season and earned the right to play in the final game. The Aggies took care of Florida in game one, 3-2, after losing two of three to the Gators during the regular season. The Ags used a combination of Justin Lamkin, Chris Cortez and Evan Aschenbeck to hold the Gators to only two runs. Jace LaViolette robbed a potential game tying two run homer in the top of the ninth inning to secure the win. The Aggies faced the number two seeded Kentucky Wildcats in game two and beat them 5-1. Ryan Prager pitched the game of his life, carrying a no-hitter into the sixth inning. The Aggie bats used timely hitting to plate five runs and advance the Aggies into the bracket championship game. The Ags took on the Gators again and became a four headed monster on the bump as Josh Stewart joined Lamkin, Cortez and Aschenbeck in shutting out the Gators. Caden Sorrell had 3 RBI's, including a sac fly and a two run homer to lead the

Aggies to victory. The three wins put the Aggies into the championship series for the first time in program history. The Aggies would explode for nine runs in game one, led by our own superman Kaeden Kent who went 3-of-4 with a home run and four RBI's. Gavin Grahovac sent the third pitch he saw as our lead-off batter over the right field fence for a 1-0 lead and we never looked back. The Aggie pitchers combined for 17 strikeouts, bookended by Prager and Aschenbeck. The Aggies won game one 9-5, and were one win away from a natty. Game two was a tight one as the Aggies carried a 1-0 lead into the seventh inning thanks to a home run by Jace LaViolette. The Aggies left six men on base and had two pickoffs at first base. The Vols hit two two-run homers in the seventh and eighth inning to clinch the win. In the deciding third game the Aggies trailed 6-1 going into the eighth inning before mounting a comeback. Hayden Schott knocked in a run, as did Caden Sorrell to draw the Aggies within three. Gavin Grahovac hit a double to start the ninth and Jackson Appel knocked him in with a single and would make his way around the bases via a defensive indifference,



a balk and a wild pitch that scored the fifth run. With the tying run at the plate Ted Burton struck out and the Aggies fell 6-5. The best season in program history would end in the final game of the college baseball season on the biggest stage. Although we didn't win it all, we are super proud of our guys who have raised the bar once again. Our next goal is not just to get to Omaha but to win it all. We have great confidence that we can do that soon! ■



RUSSELL JAMES





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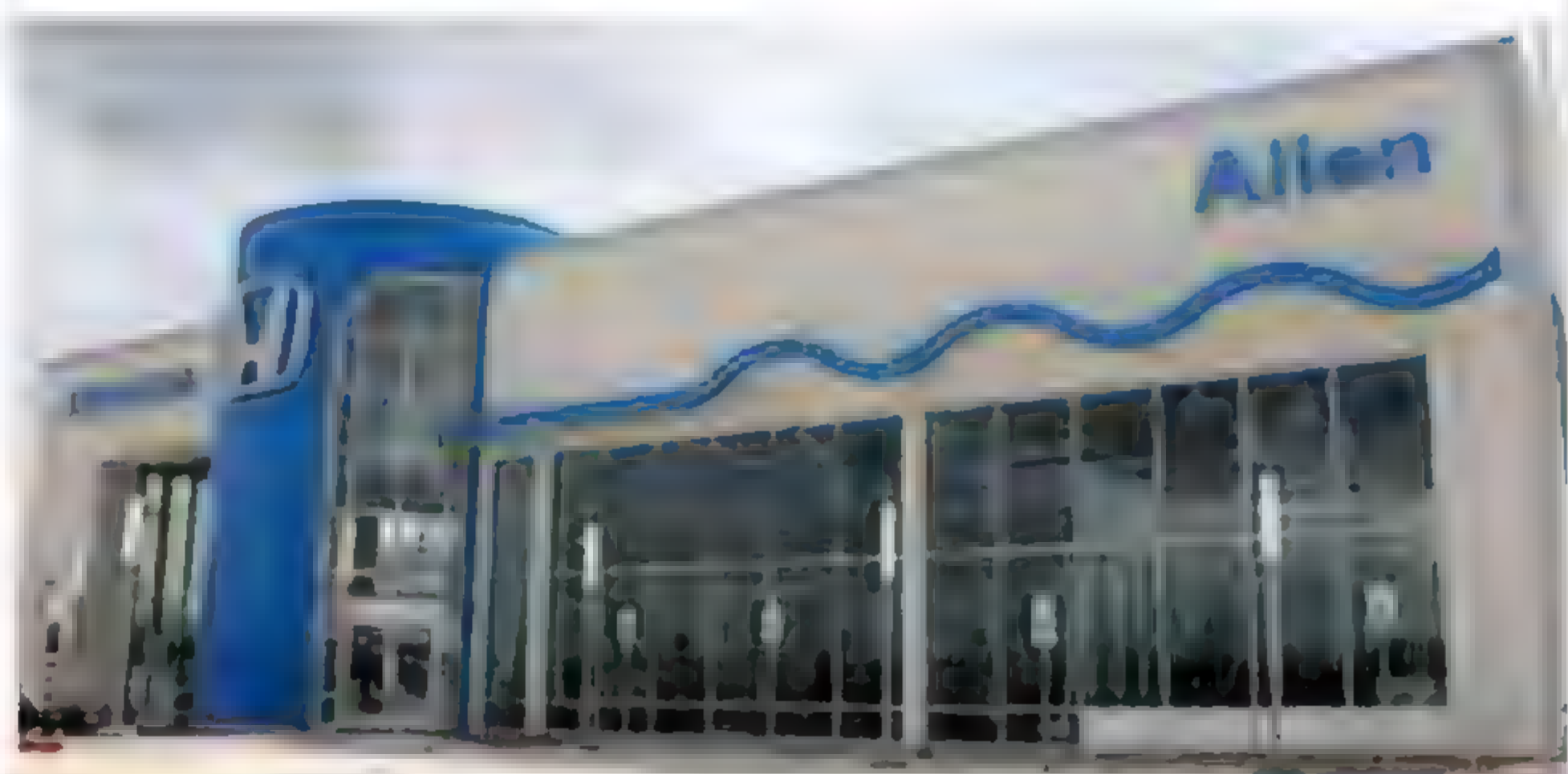
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Q&A

MARY STOIANA



WHEN DID YOU START PLAYING TENNIS?

I started playing when I was like four or five years old, like playing every day. My dad taught me when I was really little. He played and he taught me into my teenage years, so I was pretty young.

DID YOU PLAY OTHER SPORTS GROWING UP?

Not really, I pretty much just played tennis. I was on a basketball team for so little time, so nothing serious. Mostly tennis, I don't think I could say I played other sports.

TELL ME ABOUT YOUR RECRUITING TO TEXAS A&M.

I was kind of late getting involved in all of that. I played in high-level tournaments and some coaches started reaching out to me. Jordan, the associate coach here, the second coach, started messaging me a few times. And then I saw one of his messages and we started chatting about the program and it seemed like it really aligned with what I wanted to get into and get out of it. I had professional tennis aspirations in which this program really supported. I came here and saw the school and really liked it, and liked both of the coaches, both Mark and Jordan, and the group of girls seemed really good. The environment was super friendly and welcoming,

and one of the big things was that they supported my pro tennis aspirations. It just seemed like a good fit in general, and I also wanted [to come to A&M] because I grew up in the northeast. I wanted to go somewhere where it was a little warmer for year-round sports - just better weather honestly. All of those things kind of combined, and I ended up at Texas A&M.

TELL ME ABOUT YOUR TIME AT A&M SO FAR.

My time at A&M has been so great and so awesome. I feel like I've really developed as a person and player. It's been everything that I wanted to get out of college tennis and more. I didn't really know how anything worked here, but it's been so much fun being on a team, being supported by two amazing coaches, and just getting to play the sport I love in this environment while also getting to work toward professional tennis goals.. It's just been so great. I can't believe I'm going to be a senior now, how it's just flown by, but I've had so much fun every year and honestly seen my growth as a tennis player take off exponentially, which has been really great. [With] the operation of the program and those supporting you, you kind of have everything you need here. So I've just loved it so much, my time here.

YOU HAVE BEEN SO SOLID SINCE YOUR FRESHMAN YEAR AND SOMEONE THEY COULD ALWAYS COUNT ON TO WIN. TELL ME HOW IT'S BEEN FOR YOU AS YOU HAVE GROWN IN THE PROGRAM.

Like you said, I've had three really great years that were pretty solid. I kept bringing the results I felt like everyone had expected out of me. I have really enjoyed kind of being that rock in the results, and I've been able to build on that really well over the years and grow my confidence. Like, when I go out onto the court and play in matches or in the fall individual tournaments, I just go out with authority. I know I belong here and I'm going to be super successful. I feel like these great years are just building on each other, and it gives me so much confidence. I really understand how this all goes, especially now as a junior going to be a senior. I guess I am a senior now that school is over. I'm very well-versed and comfortable in this atmosphere. The results just come. I go out super confident, and I know that I got it and can handle adversity really well, should it come. Yeah, I just feel really great on the court.

YOU HAVE BEEN SO MUCH OF A PART OF MAKING THIS A TOP-FIVE PROGRAM. IS THAT SOMETHING YOU CAN LOOK BACK ON AS THE LEGACY YOU MADE?

Yeah, I would like to think so for sure. I haven't known anything different than being a championship-winning team this whole [time] I've been in school. So, for that to be a part of the legacy that I helped build and create, it's been so much fun building with all of my teammates every year and doing such great things. I would definitely say yeah.

SO LET'S TALK ABOUT THE CAROLINA MATCH. YOU OBVIOUSLY KNEW THEY WERE THE DEFENDING NATIONAL CHAMPS, BUT DID YOU KNOW GOING IN THAT THEY HAD A 94 HOME MATCH WINNING STREAK AND THAT THEY HADN'T LOST AT HOME IN SIX YEARS?

No, we didn't know that at all, or at least personally I didn't know that. And I don't think my teammates knew either, because afterwards when we saw that stat posted and that we had broken their 94 home match winning streak we were like, 'Oh my gosh.' They had a six-year long win-streak at home and we came and caused absolute destruction there. So, we didn't know that going in at all. It was cool to see.

YOU AND MIA CLINCHED THE DOUBLES POINT AND THEN CLINCHED THE MATCH POINT FOR THE VICTORY. TELL ME ABOUT THOSE.

When I realized I won the doubles and singles point I was like, 'wow.' It felt really special for such a big moment for our team. It just shows how much hard work and consistency really pays off in those big moments. I think



because both of those last sets I played in the doubles and singles were tiebreakers -those are big pressure moments - but I found that just trusting my game and attacking the points the way I should with the mentality of going and taking it, not waiting for them to miss, and having that killer instinct mentality, and just trusting that, really showed up to be beneficial in the closing moments of those matches. I felt it the same in the doubles and in the singles there. So, that was really special to be the clinching match. It was truly such a great team effort by everyone to be able to put Mia and me in that position in doubles, and then that position in singles. We all just really showed up that day that we played UNC, and it really paid off and felt so special to be able to win there.

WITH ALL OF THE OTHER MATCHES GOING ON DID YOU KNOW THAT YOU WERE PLAYING FOR THE MATCH POINT?

Uhm yeah, you definitely know. When we play this clinch format you try to focus on your own match, but you are noticing the scores of the other matches, so you kind of know when you might be the court that's going to win. You just have to kind of deal with that - it's how it works in college. You just have to play every point regardless and try to stay focused enough to get the job done.

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN LAST YEAR'S SQUAD AND THIS YEAR'S SQUAD AND WHAT IS IT GOING TO TAKE TO WIN THREE MORE MATCHES TO WIN A NATTY?

We've always had talented teams all my three years here. That definitely doesn't change over the years, but I feel like this year's squad has faced some adversity early on in the season. In the previous two seasons we were so used to winning everything until the big moment, and then we would lose. But, honestly, this year we took some losses early on, and I feel like we handled that really well as a group and I've just been responding and growing every time we have a tough loss. That's really bonded our group in general as well. I just feel like we are really ready to come together and seize the big moment and take advantage, because we know we have been through a lot

already. The way I see it, it's like we are going to go out and play and whatever happens we can definitely handle - win or lose, or whatever happens - we can handle it. We've already had some interesting, really tight matches that we lost, like some heartbreakers. But, we've also shown ourselves as a group that we can win tight matches and some close ones that we came through during the SEC season. I just feel like we've grown together through that adversity and now we are ready to take it all the way and hopefully win the title.

ARE YOU STAYING NEXT YEAR OR ARE YOU STILL THINKING ABOUT IT?

Yeah, as of now yup, [I am] staying.

YOU HAVE ONE MORE YEAR TO GRADUATE, CORRECT?

Correct.

TELL ME ABOUT YOUR EXPERIENCES OF JUST BEING AN AGGIE.

Yeah, it's been fun being a part of a community that's really huge and super supportive here, and being a student-athlete already puts you in a group of all of the other athletes, which is nice. You know, when you're eating together or using the same facilities together you get to have time with a group of similar people, and it's nice to be a part of. Playing for something that's bigger than you, for your school, that's felt really special. And just taking part in traditions -I'm about to order my Aggie Ring - and embracing and buying into the A&M culture has been cool. It's been enjoyable.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE AGGIE TRADITION?

Probably the Aggie Ring. I mean, I don't have mine yet, but I'm going to wear it a ton when I get it. I think it's cool what it means and what it represents, so I'm excited about that.

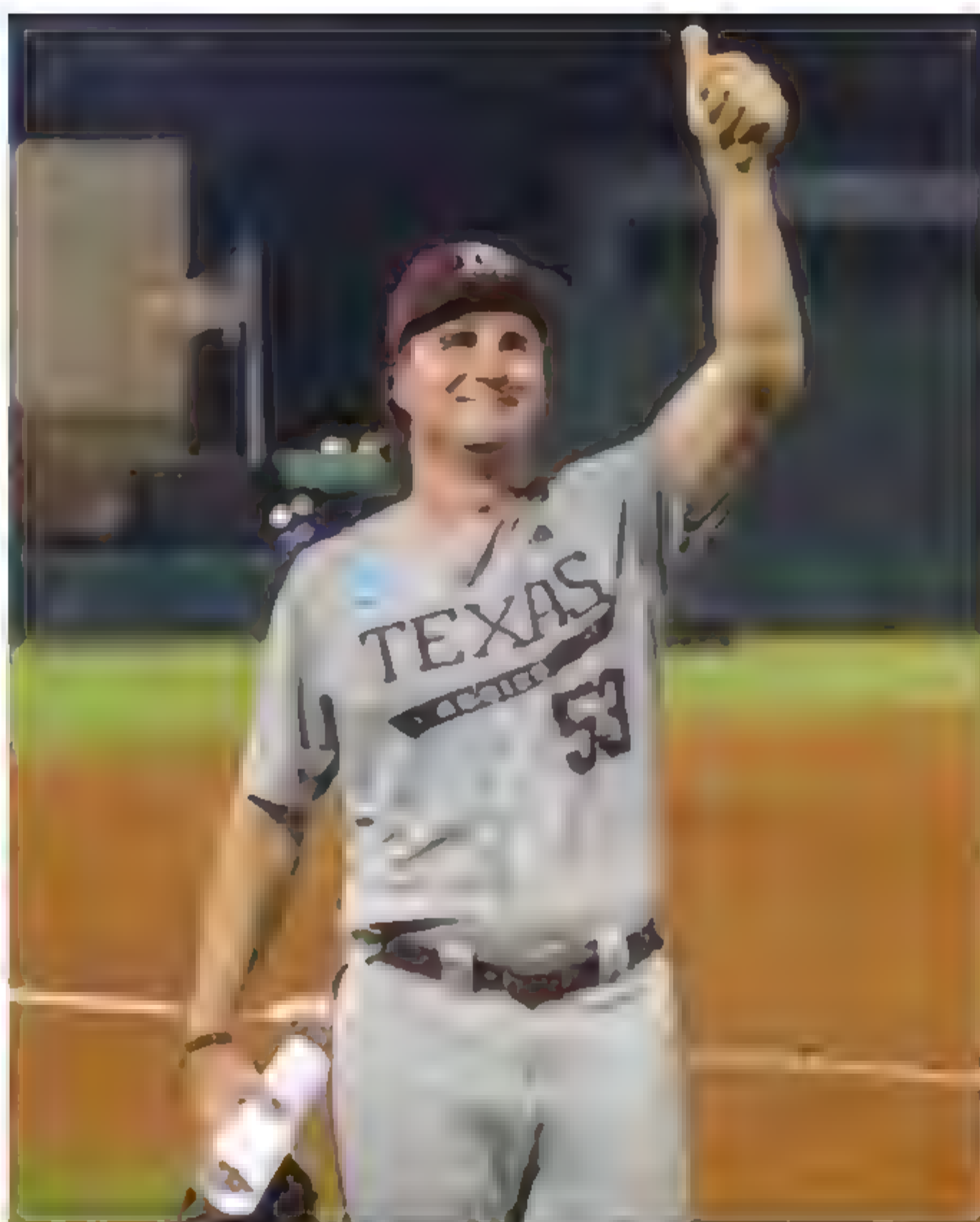
WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE MOMENT ON THE COURT SINCE YOU'VE BEEN HERE?

That's a tough one, just one moment? I'm gonna have to say my freshman year SEC Tournament Final. I clinched against Georgia and we won the tournament in Gainesville, Florida.

COACH WEAVER SAID THE WIN AGAINST CAROLINA WAS ONE OF THE BIGGEST IF NOT THE BIGGEST WIN IN PROGRAM HISTORY. HOW DOES THAT FEEL TO BE THE CLINCHING POINT IN THE BIGGEST MATCH IN PROGRAM HISTORY?

Yeah, I did read that or heard that he said that. That feels unbelievably special, and I'm honored to be able to deliver that for the team and for the program. It feels so nice, and it shows what an accumulation of work and belief and love for the program kind of turns into. In moments like this it feels so cool and awesome. ■





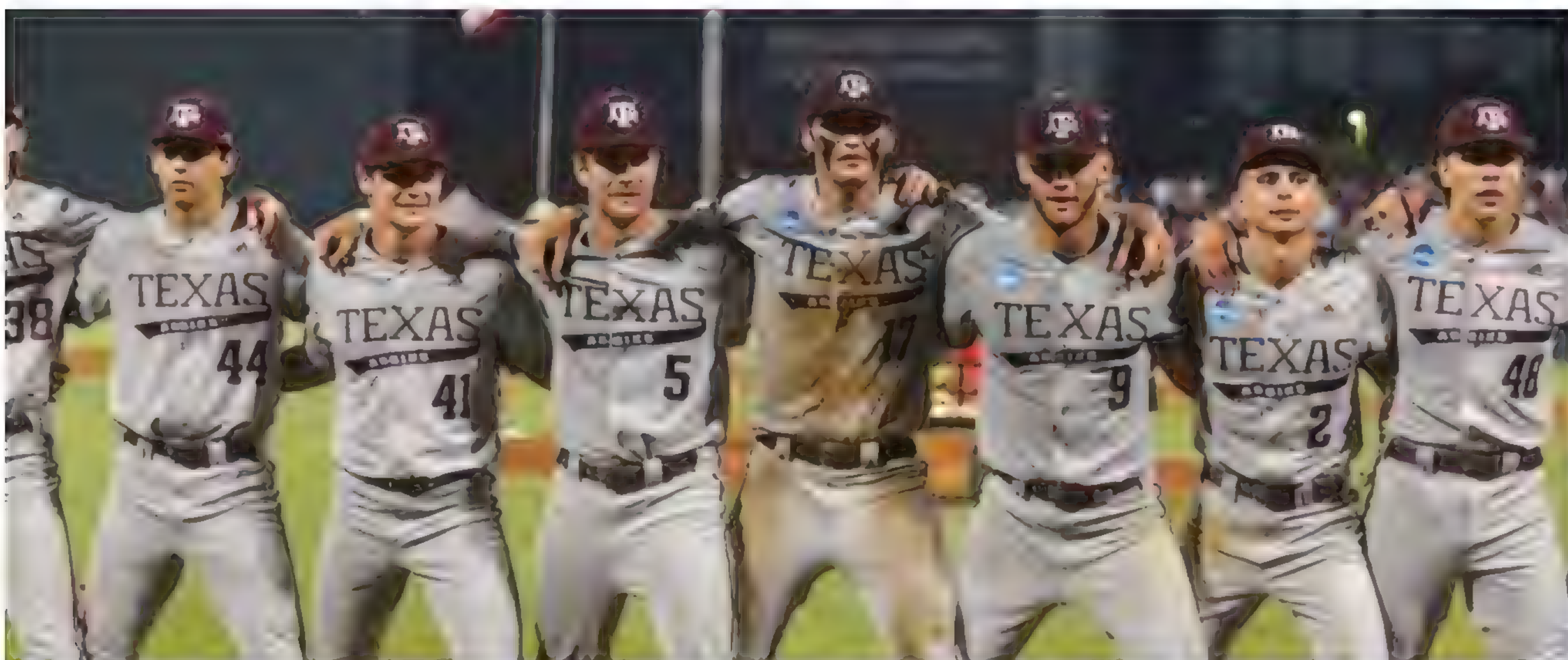
AGGIES GO

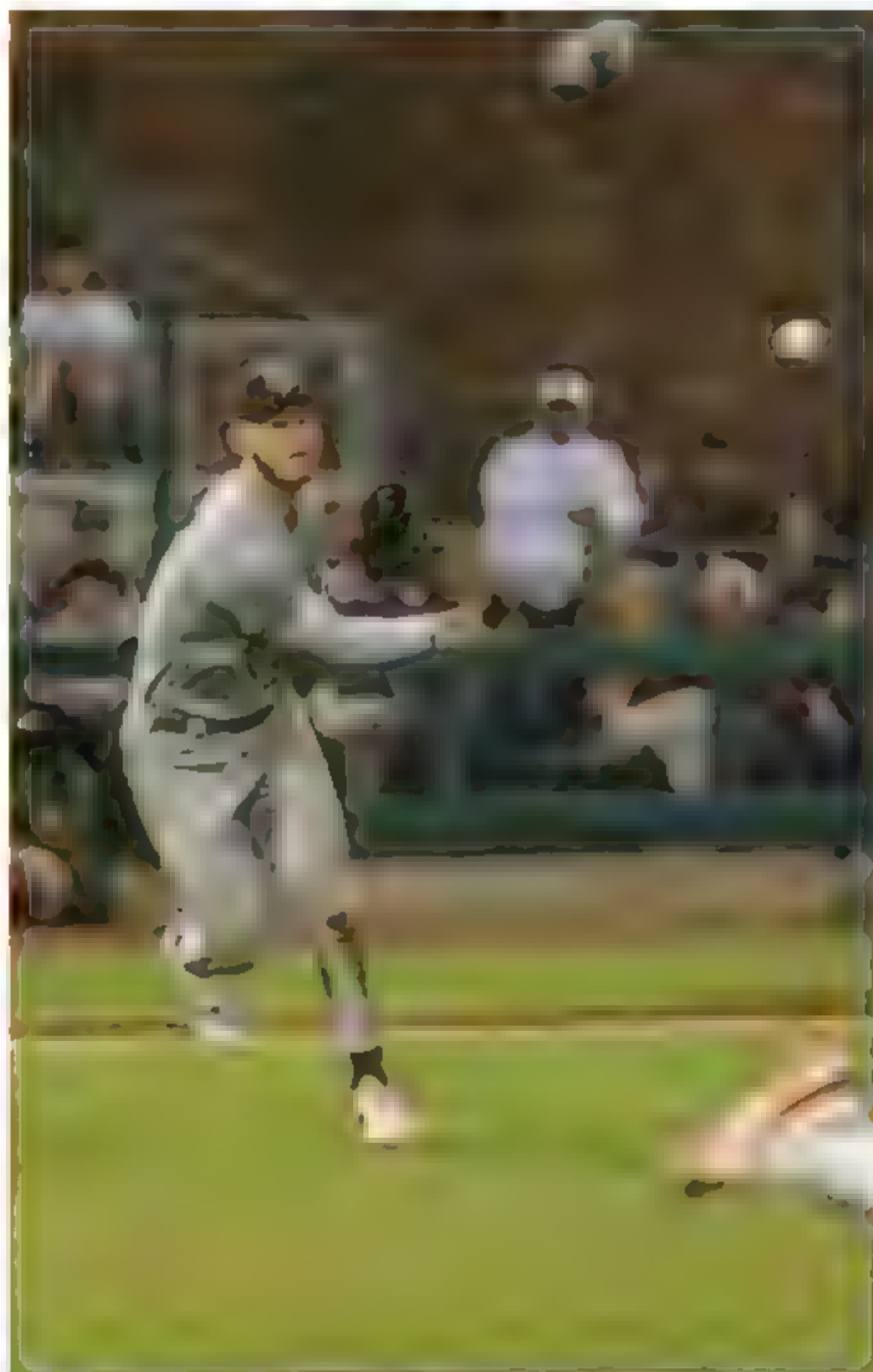
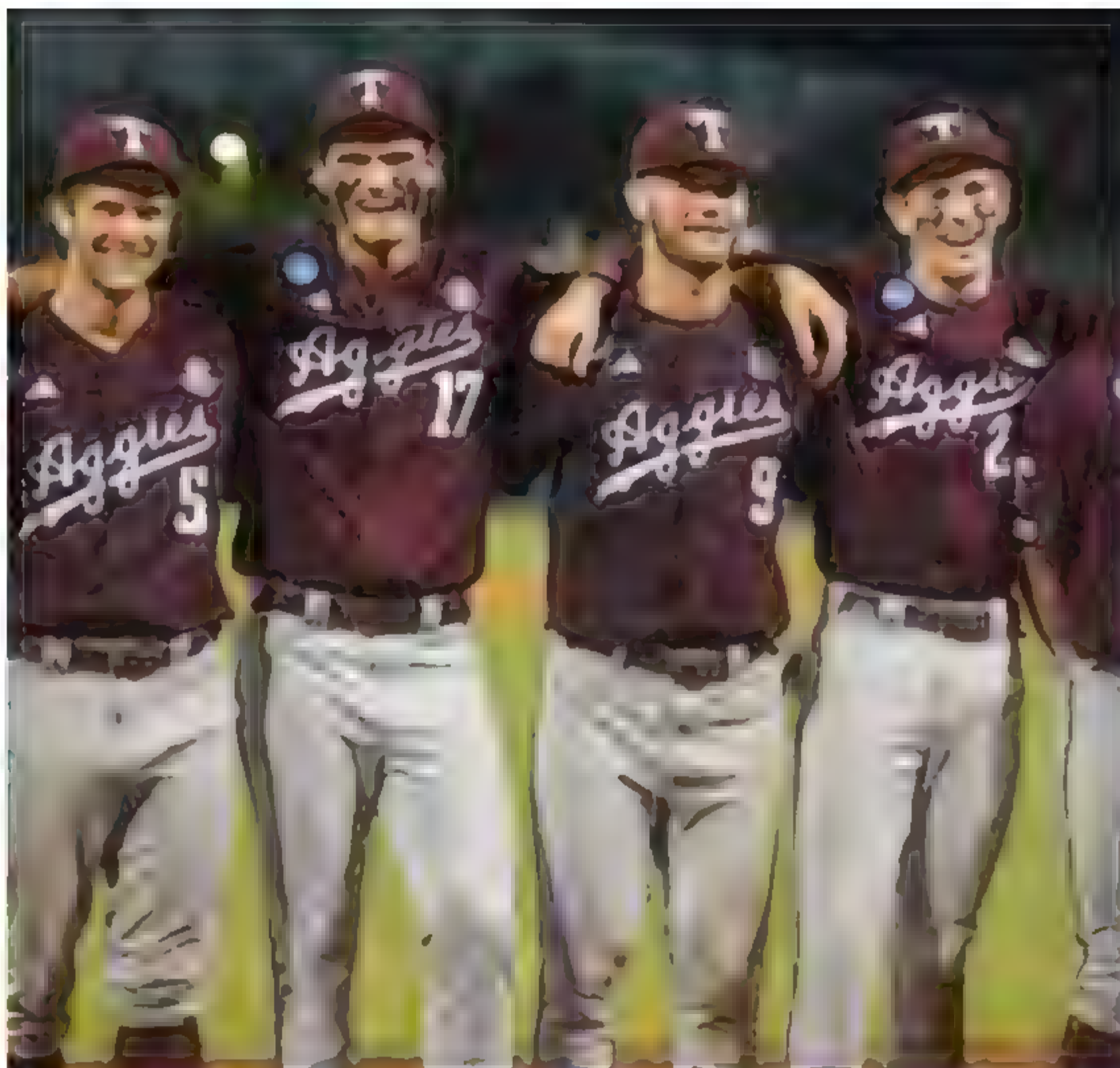
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IN B/CS REGIONAL

BY ROB HAVENS '88

After a stellar regular season where the Aggies spent time as the No. 1 team in the land, the Maroon & White earned the No. 3 national seed. Texas A&M hosted Grambling St in game one and made quick work out of the Tigers, 8-0. The victory set up the game of the year, as the Aggies took on Texas for a chance to play in the Regional Championship. The Horns struck first with a solo home run on the first pitch they saw. The Aggies would answer in the fifth with a Sorrell homerun, knotting the score at one. The game would go into extra innings, tied at two, until the Ags scored the go-ahead run with bases loaded. Ted Burton hit a grounder that was misplayed by the third baseman, giving the Aggies a 3-2 lead. A wild pitch would plate another run and Evan Aschenbeck would slam the door to give the Aggies the win. In the Championship game the next night, the Aggie bats would come alive for 13 hits and 9 runs. The combo of Sdao and Cortez kept the Ragin Cajuns at bay and the Aggies advanced to the Super Regional. ■

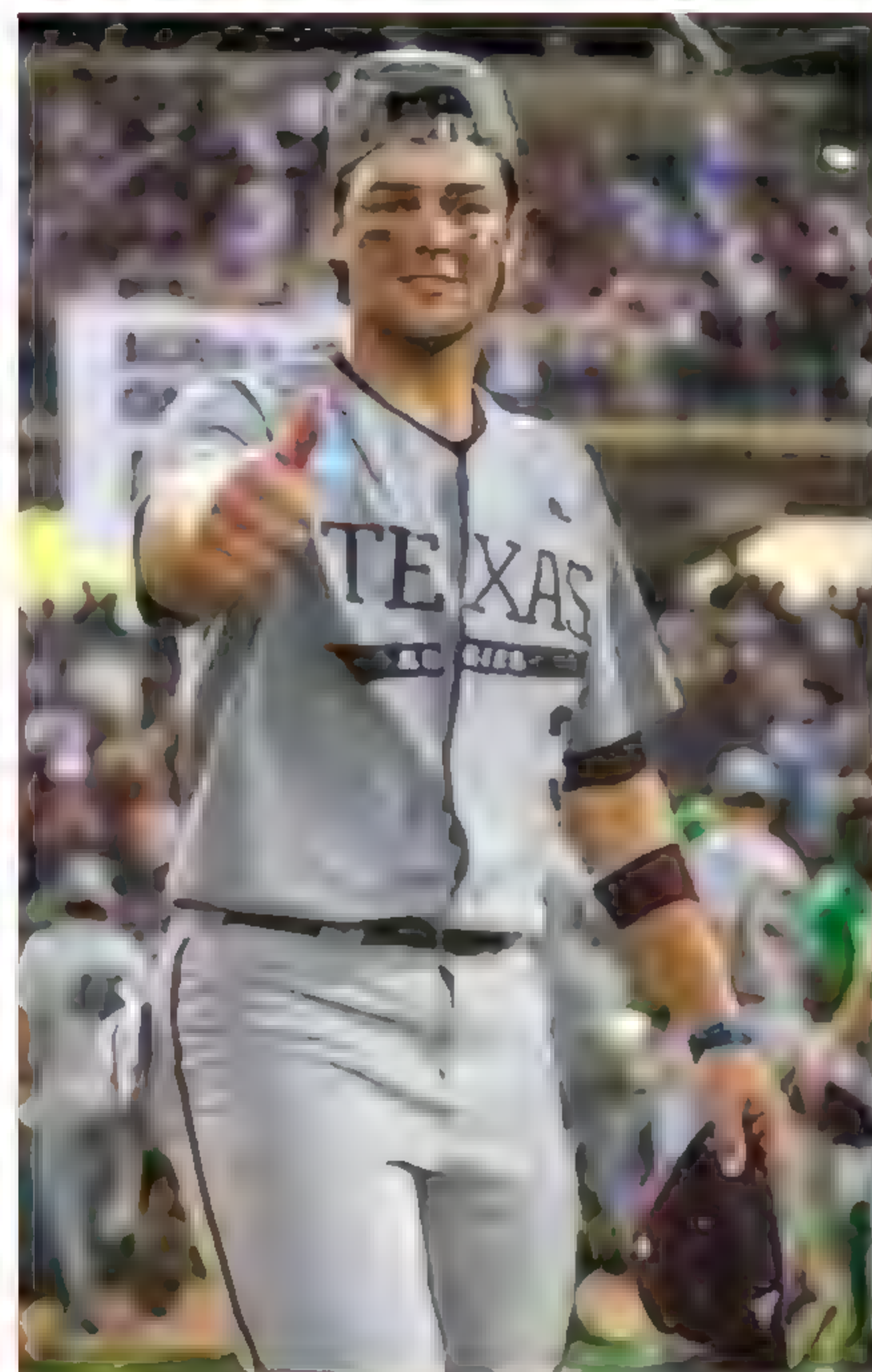


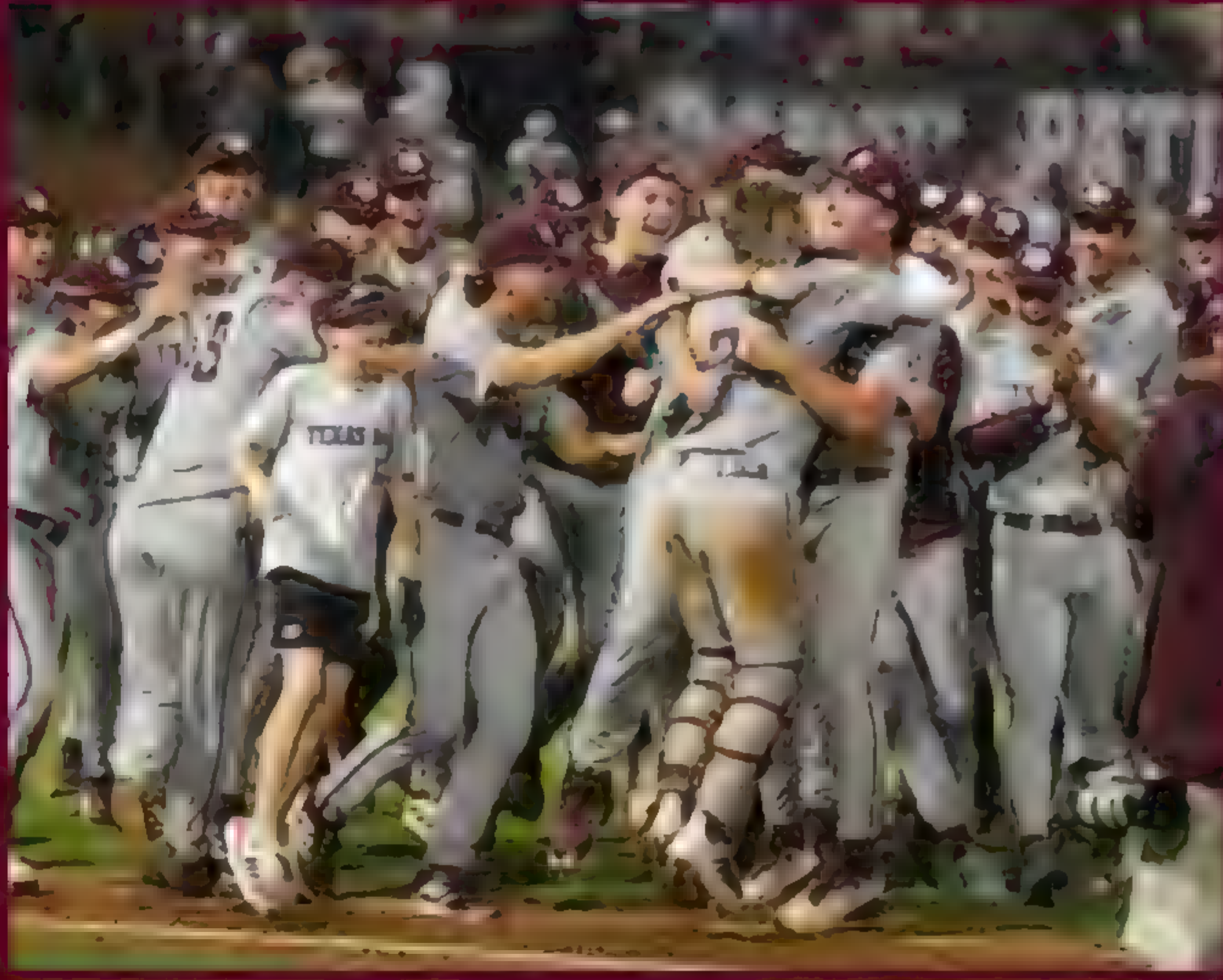
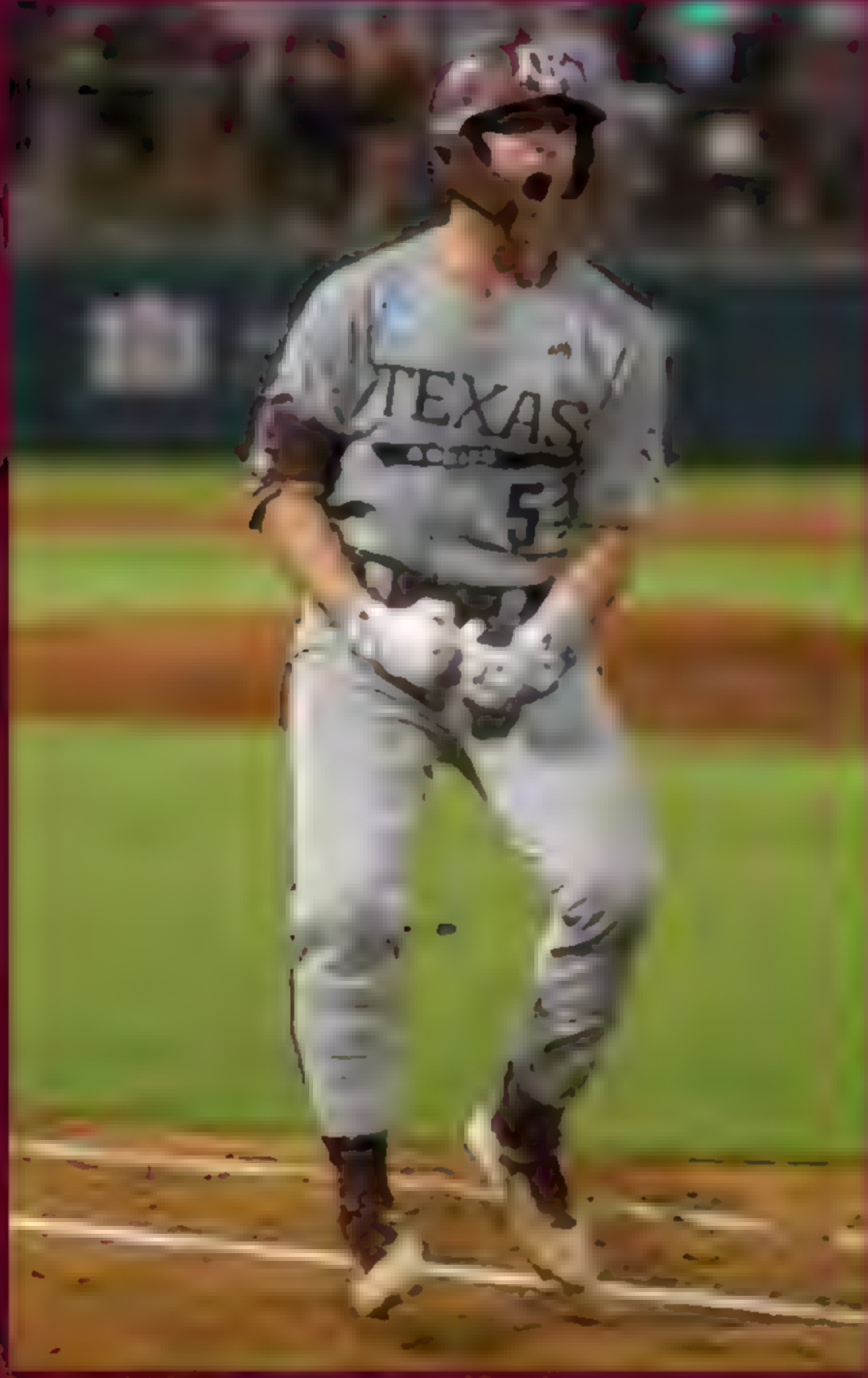


12TH MAN LIFTS AGGIE BASEBALL TO **SUPER REGIONAL WIN**

BY ROB HAVENS '88

In Game 1 of the Super Regional, the Aggies came back from a 6-3 deficit to beat the Ducks 10-6 and advance to the Super Regional Championship game. The Aggies had 12 hits and drew nine walks to propel the Aggies to the win. A career performance by Chris Cortez on the bump and a save by Evan Aschenbeck put the Aggies one win away from Omaha. Game two of the series was a "Made for TV" event that will be remembered forever. Shane Sdao suffered a season-ending injury while giving up a two-run homer in the first inning. The Aggies trailed 7-2 after three and showed no signs of a comeback. Schlossnagle used "Johnny Whole Staff" to get us through the game. In the 7th inning, down 8-5, the Aggies mounted a comeback that will go down in the history books. The Maroon & White sent 13 batters to the plate and scored nine runs. With each walk or hit batsman the 12th Man got louder. Bubbles filled the air as the players moved from station to station. Finally, Kaeden Kent stepped to the plate and became an Aggie legend. With the Ags leading 9-8 Kent ripped a no-doubter over the right field fence and Olsen Field went nuts. It was the loudest I have heard in the last 40 years. Evan Aschenbeck would take the mound in the bottom of the 7th and slam the door shut as Texas A&M would go on to win 15-9! ■





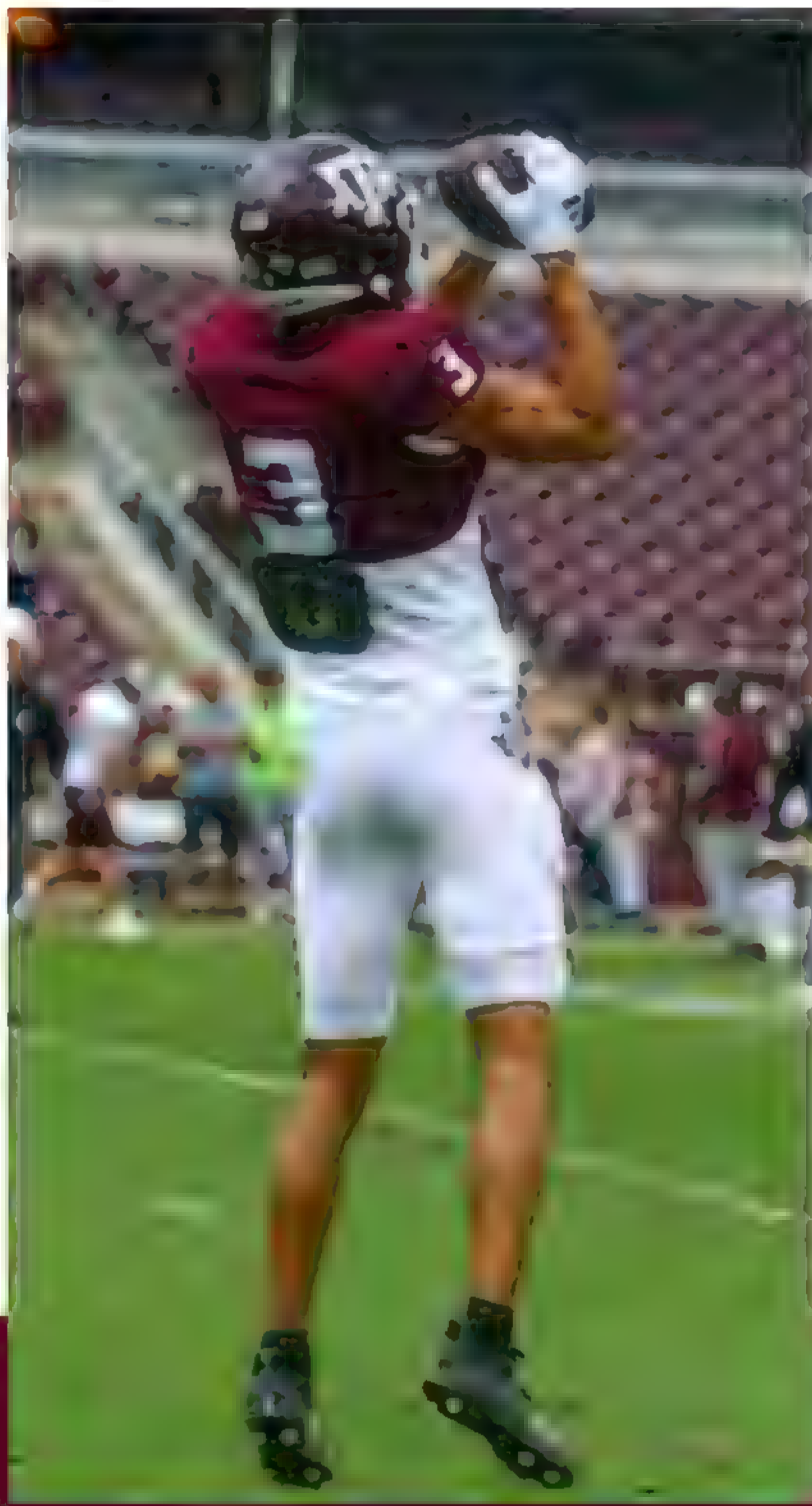
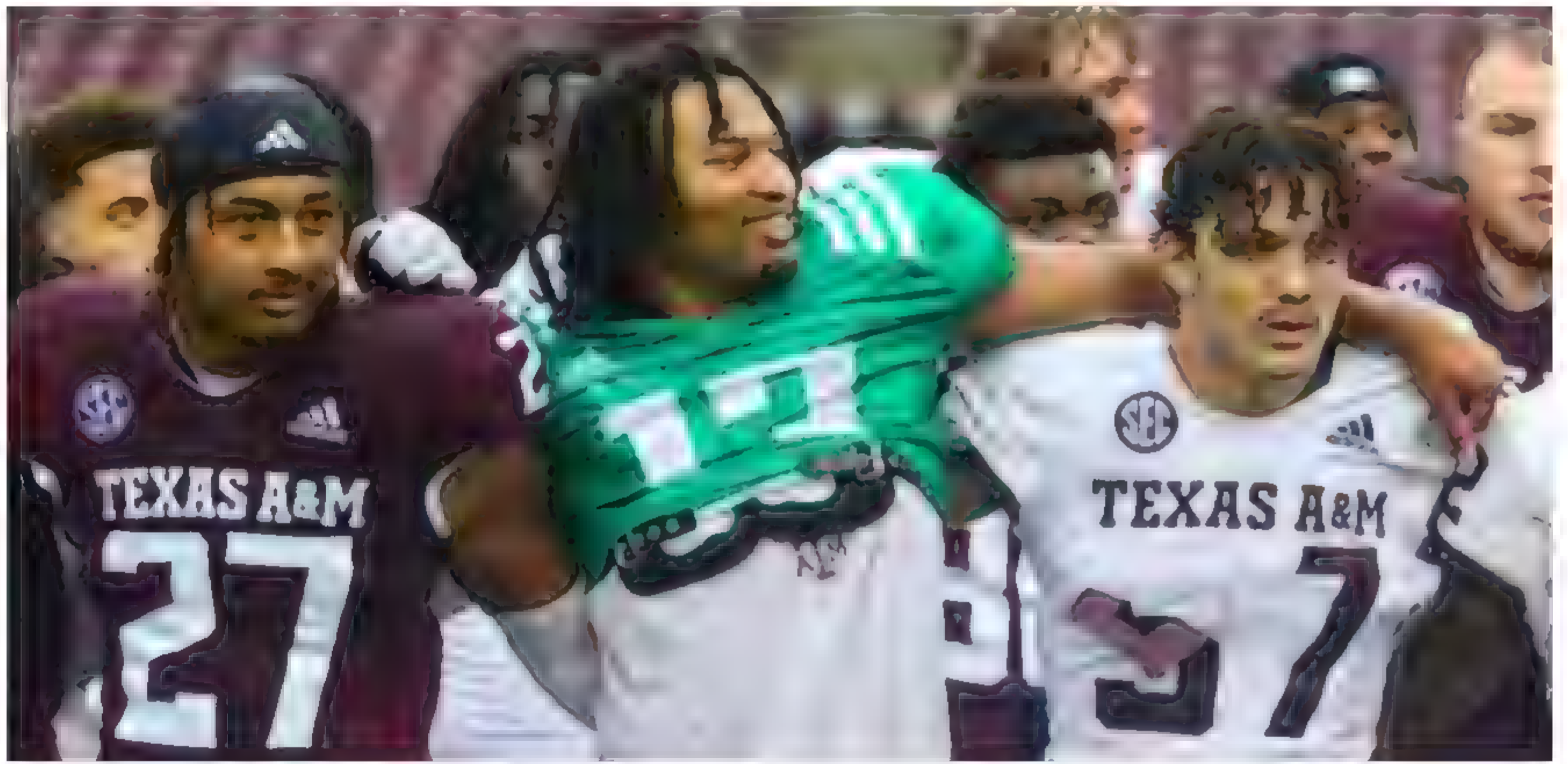
MAROON & WHITE GAME

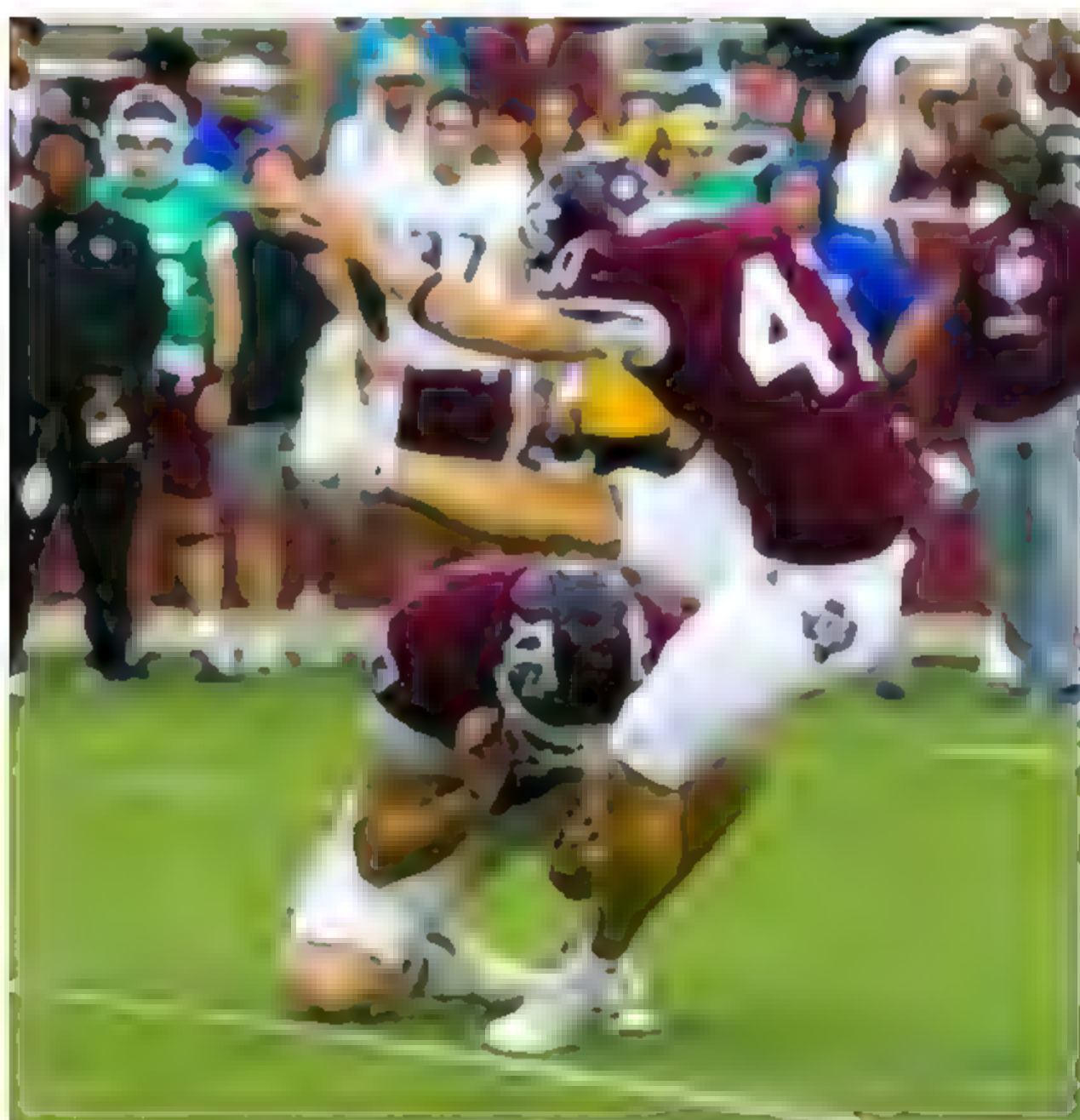
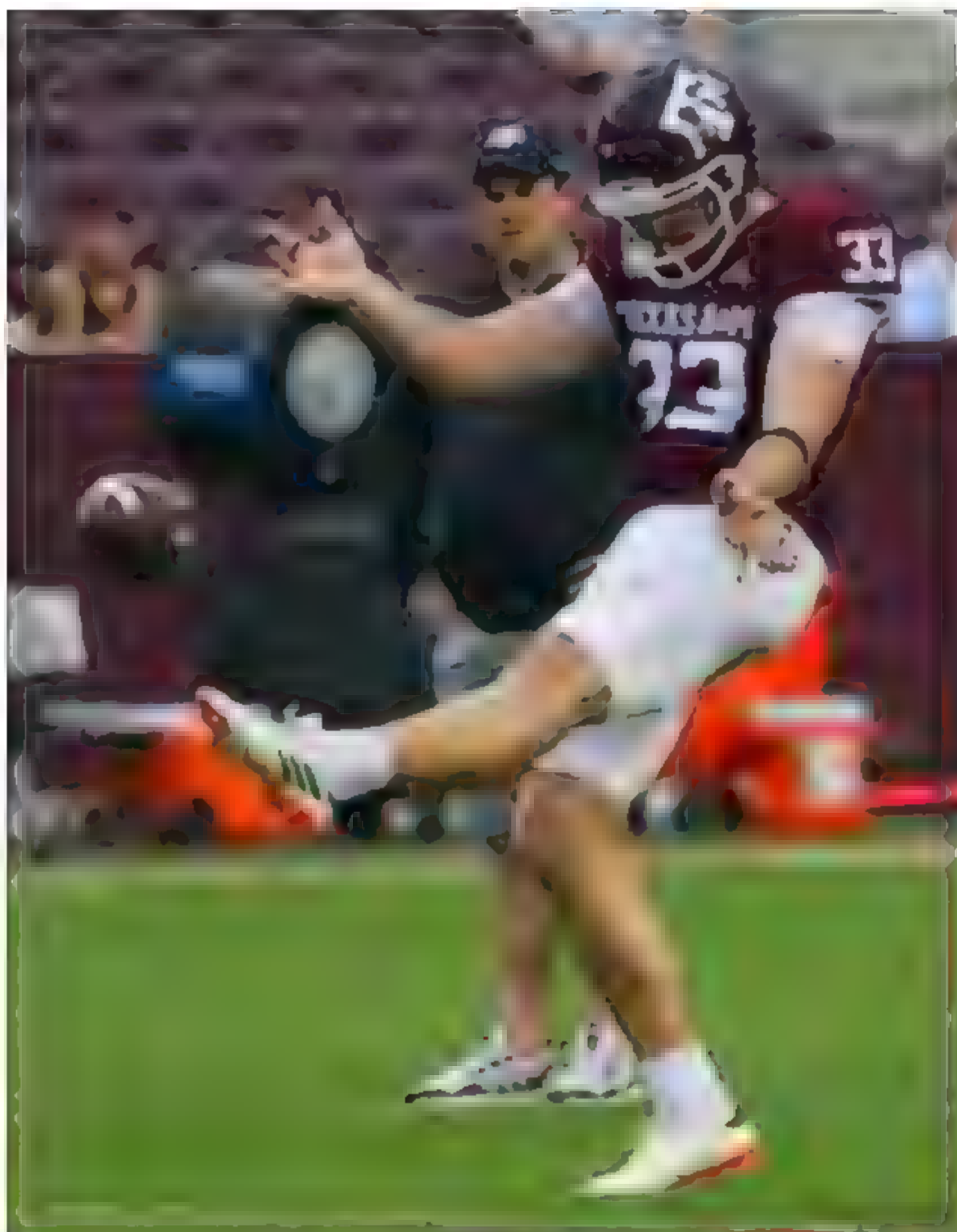


BY ROB HAVENS '88

The 12th Man got their first look at Mike Elko's team when they competed in the Maroon & White game. Fans were excited to see Conner Weigman run back onto the field for the first time since his season-ending injury during the Auburn game last September. Elko said after the game that although he wasn't at 100% he should be by the time the Aggies start fall camp. Our new offensive coordinator Collin Klein has a whole stable of talented QBs to work with for next season, including Jaylen Henderson, who took most of the snaps last season, and Marcel Reed who led the team during the Texas Bowl. On the defensive side of the ball, Purdue transfer and Bryan native Nic Scourton looked like a beast out there. He will be a difference-maker this fall. Linebacker Taurean York will be the leader of the defense once again this season, as the sophomore returns after an amazing first year with the team. Second-year running back Rueben Owens showed he is ready to go, as he scampered 61 yards for a touchdown on the biggest play of the day. Junior wide receiver Noah Thomas was the offensive MVP with seven catches for 82 yards and a touchdown. Still, there is plenty of work to be done between now and August 31st when we face Notre Dame, but we know this team is in good hands with our new head coach. ■





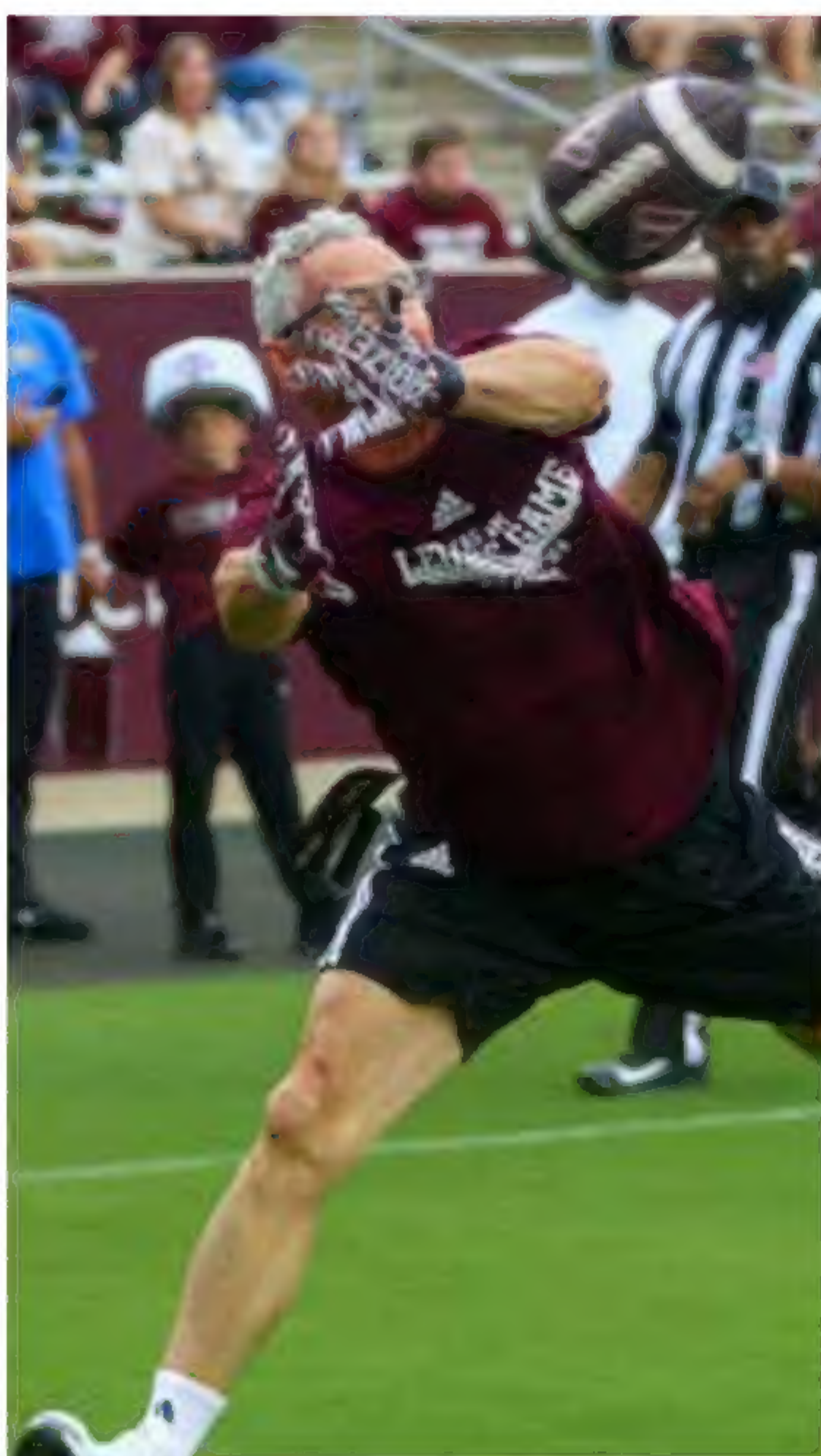


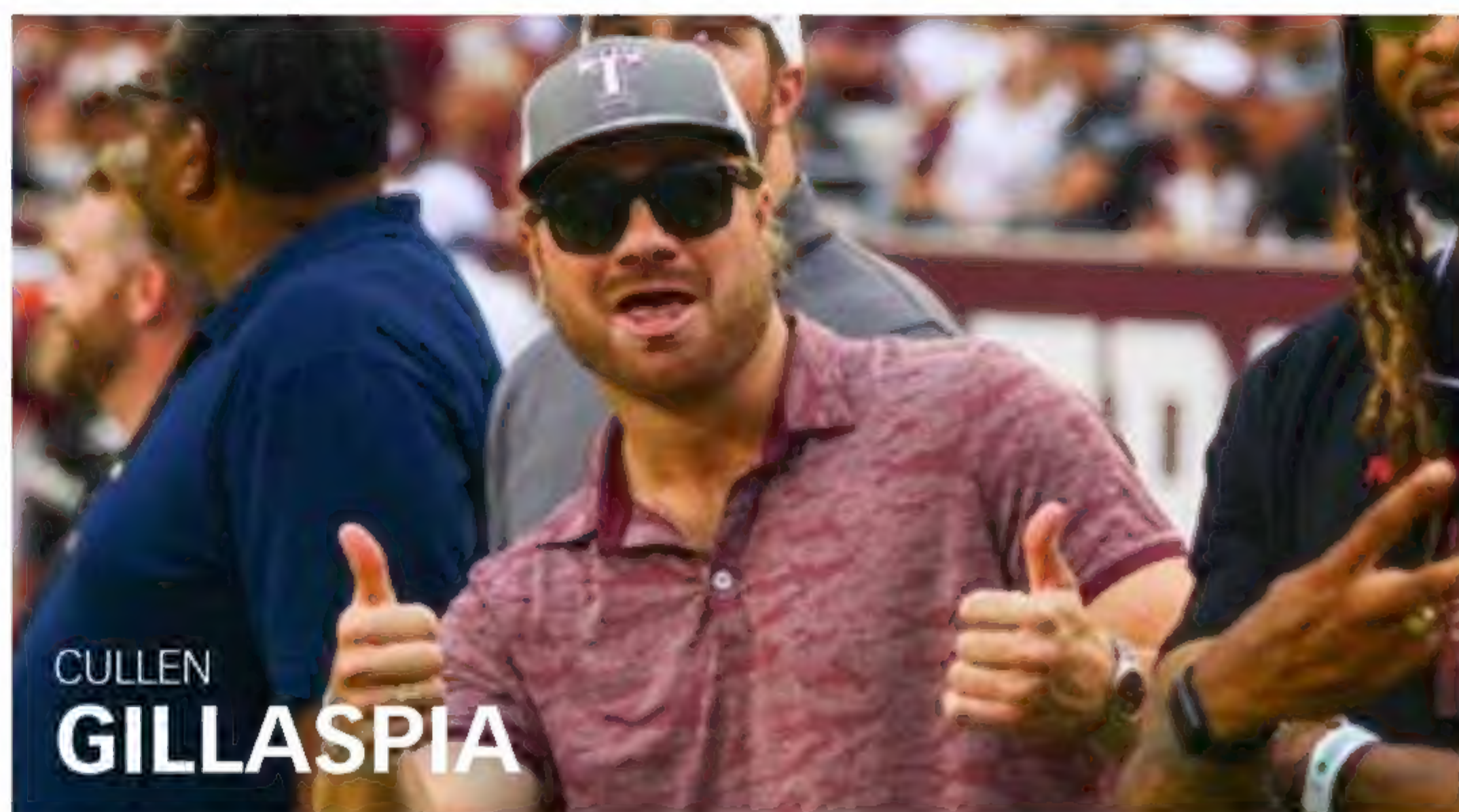
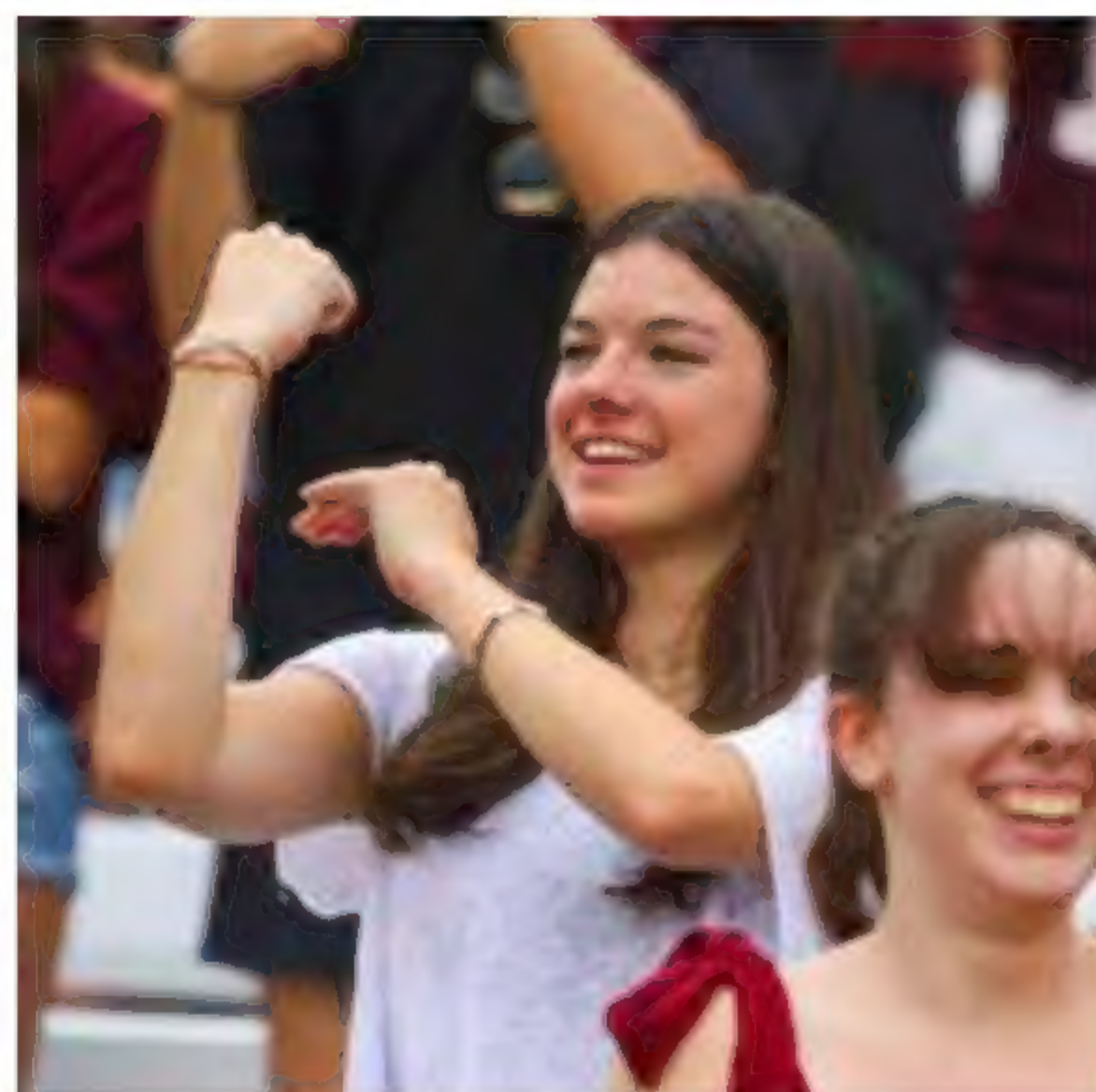


AGGIE LEGENDS GAME ★★★★★★★★★★

BY ROB HAVENS '88

The 12th Man welcomed back almost 30 former student-athletes to participate in the Legends game during halftime of the Maroon & White Game. Team Maroon was led by Coach Cullen Gillaspia and Coach Terrence Murphy. Team White was coached by Jake Matthews and Trayveon Williams. Jake Hubenak played all-time quarterback for both teams. Leon O'Neal brought his big smile and still very athletic game back to Kyle, while Jeff Fuller showed he still has plenty of game left in the tank. Carl Roaches found his way into the end zone at age 70 with the biggest smile on the field. ■

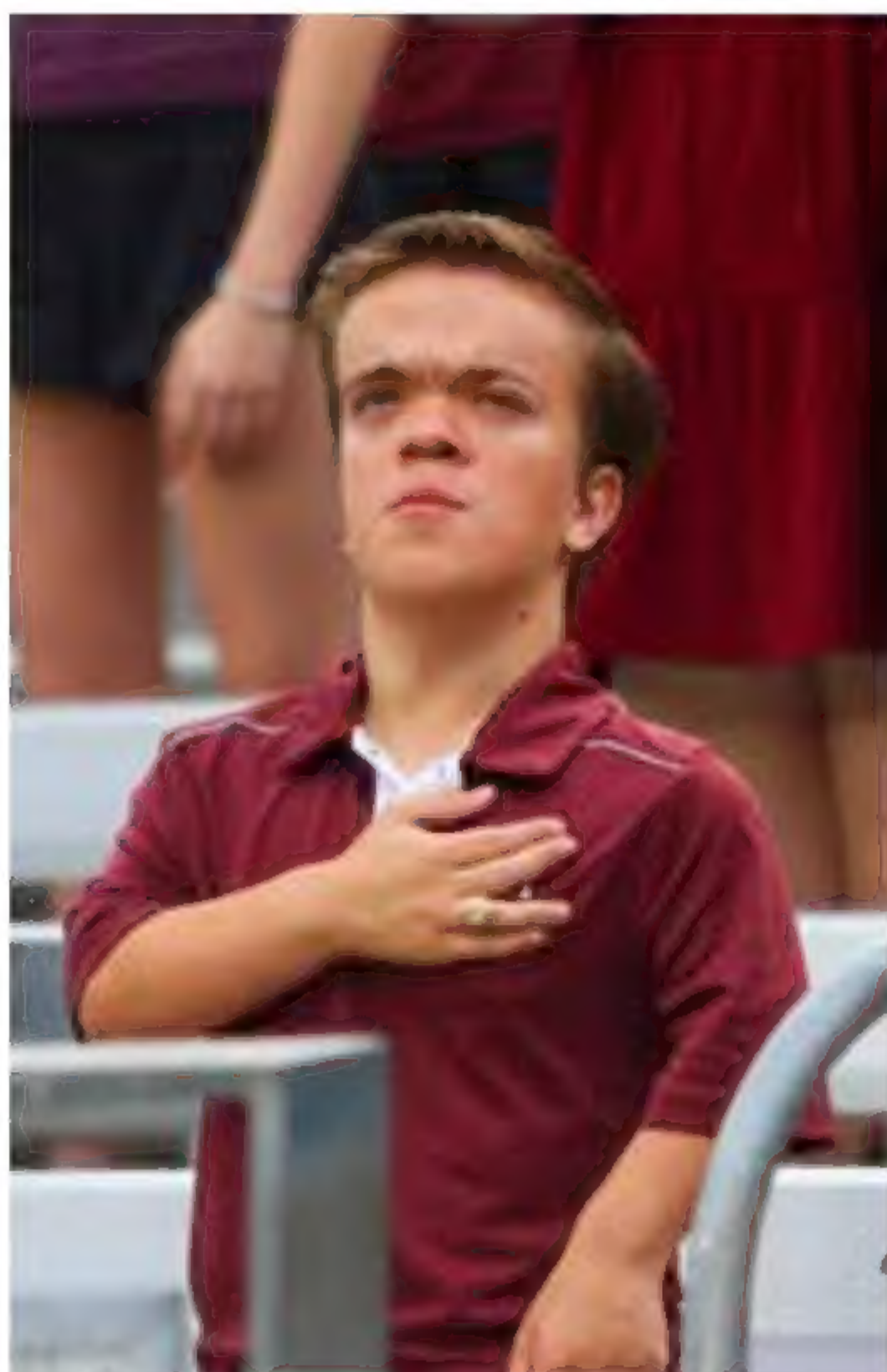




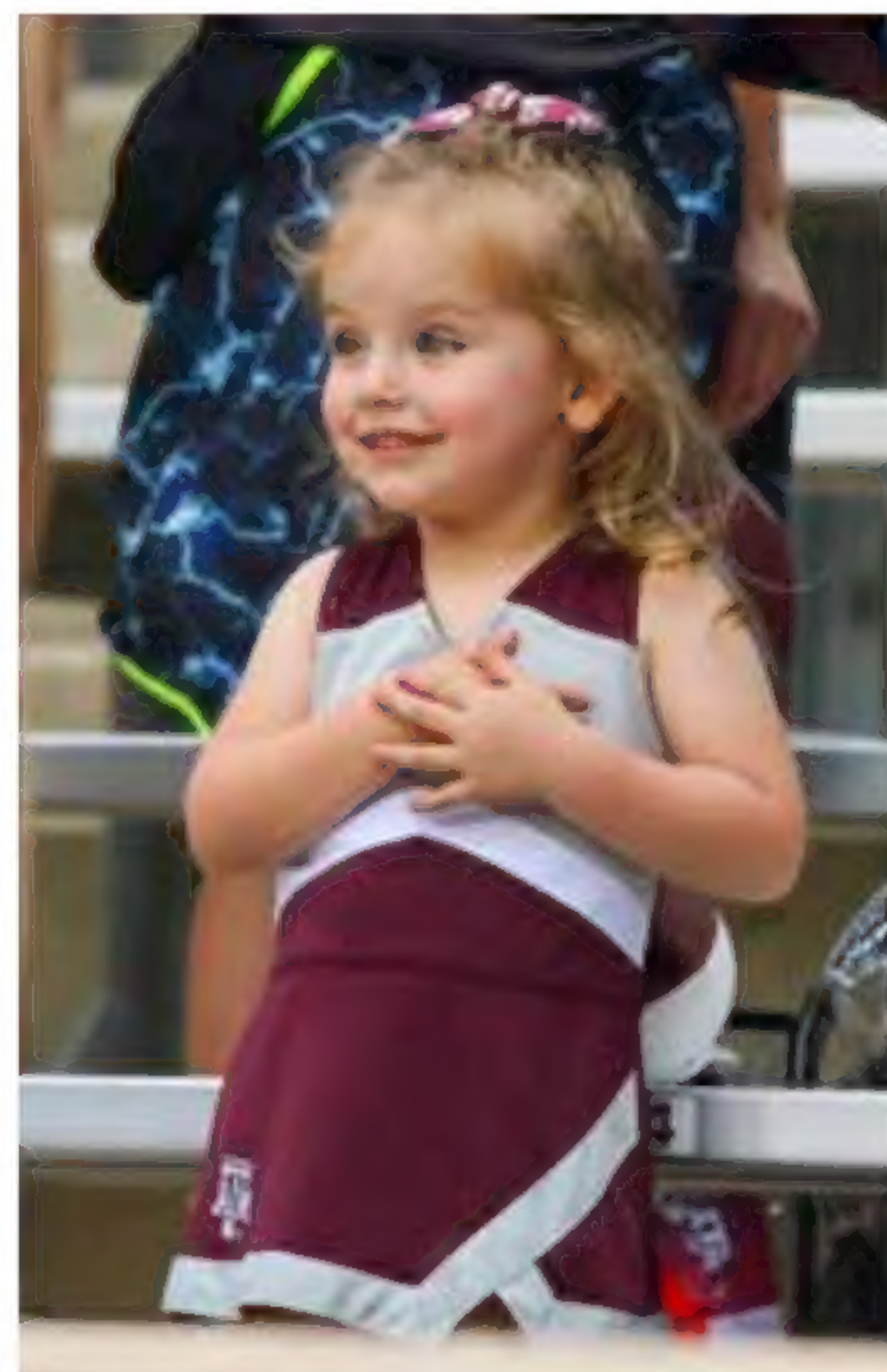
CULLEN
GILLASPIA



COACH TONY
JEROD-EDDIE



COACH JACKIE
SHERRILL





JOSH
LAMBO



KENDRICK
ROGERS



THE 12TH MAN

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